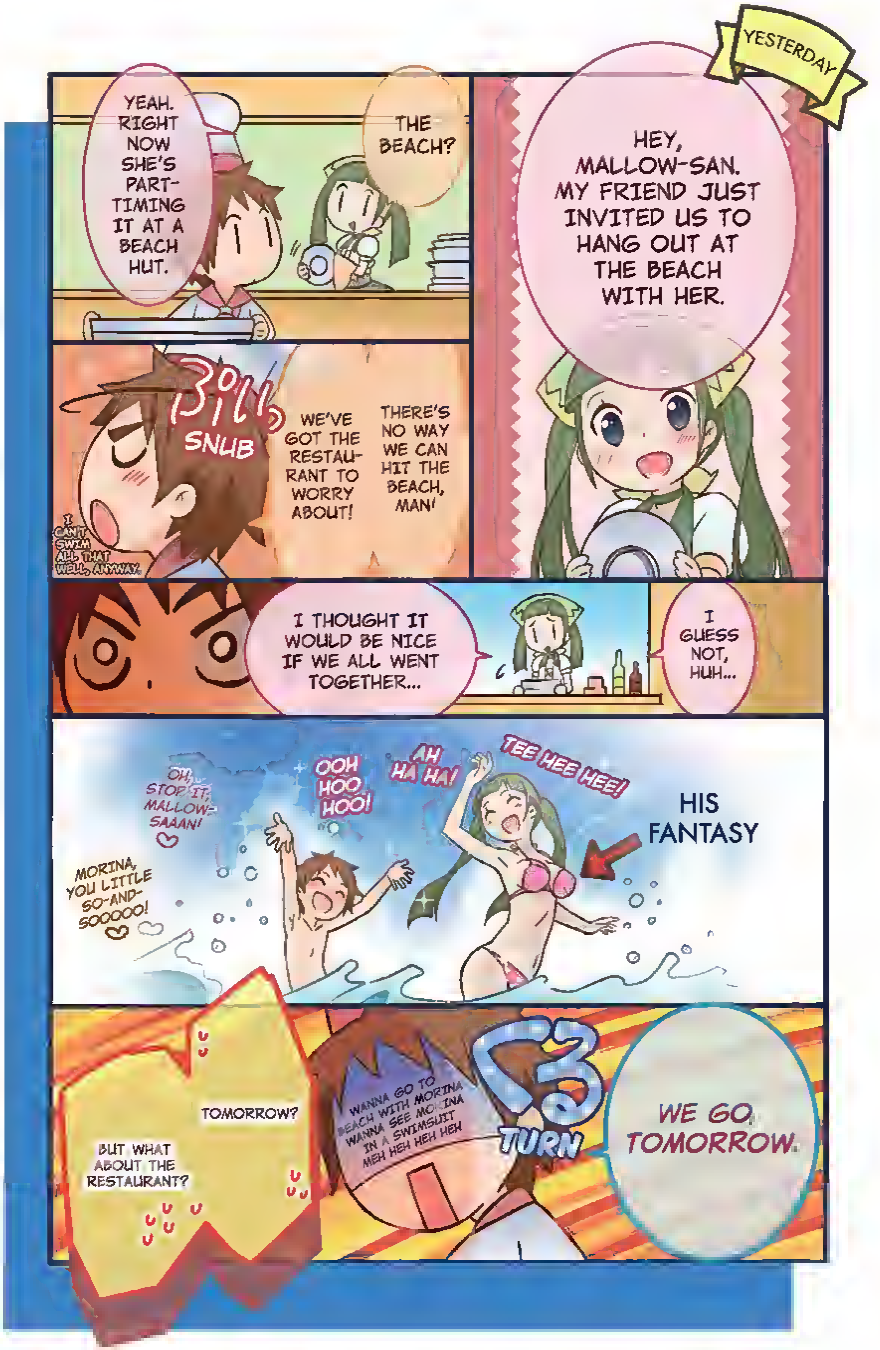
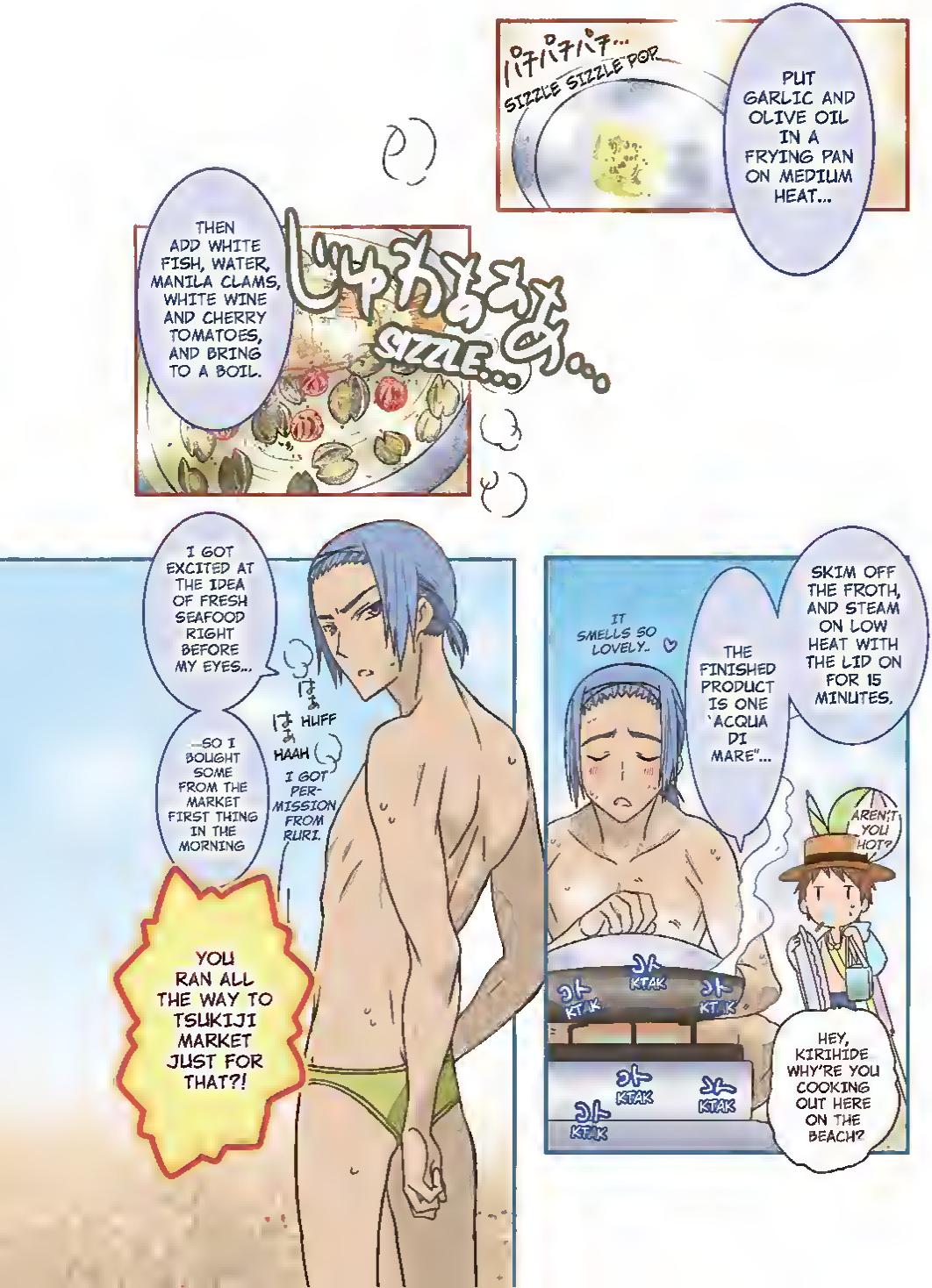
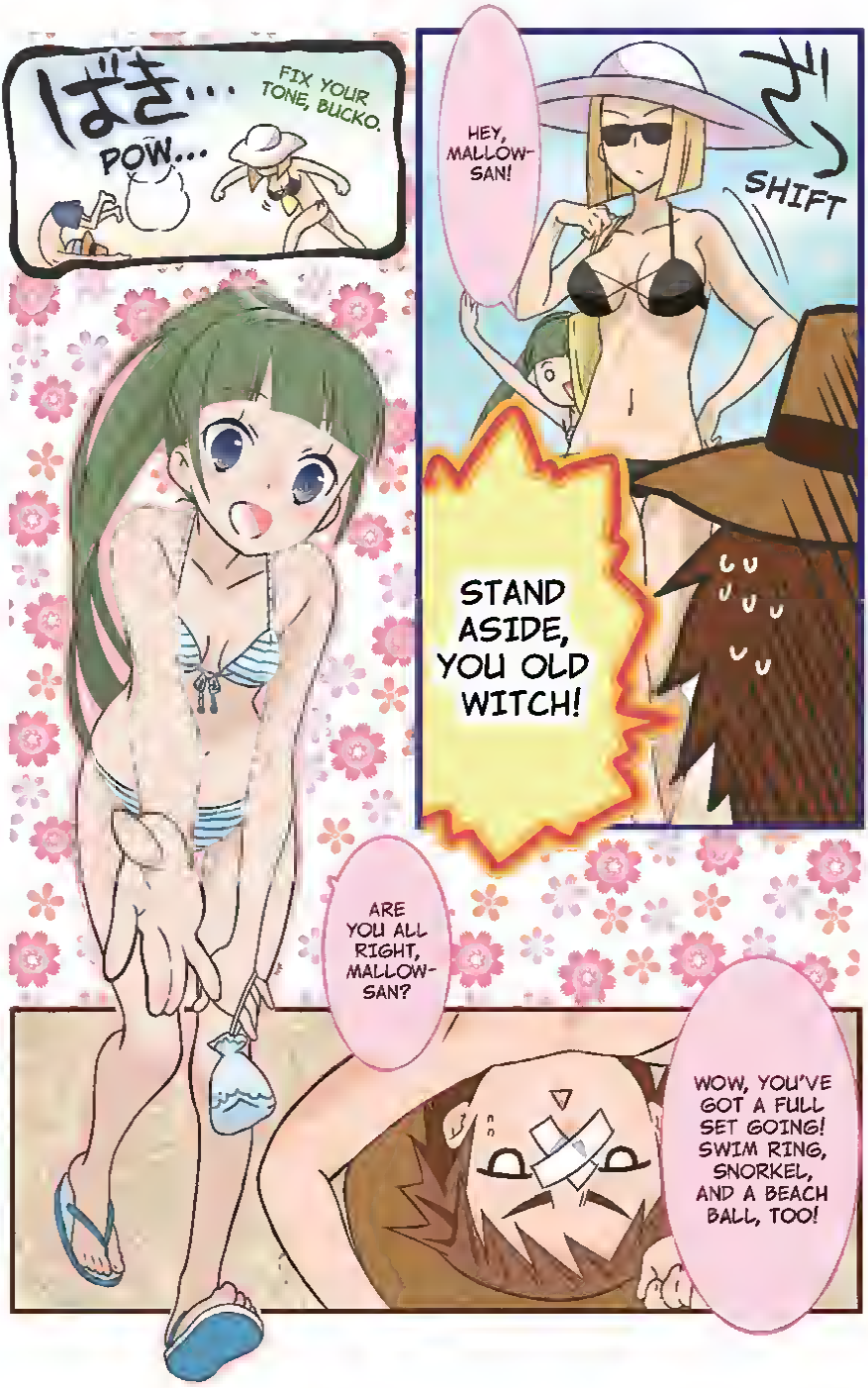
カッツ SHINE

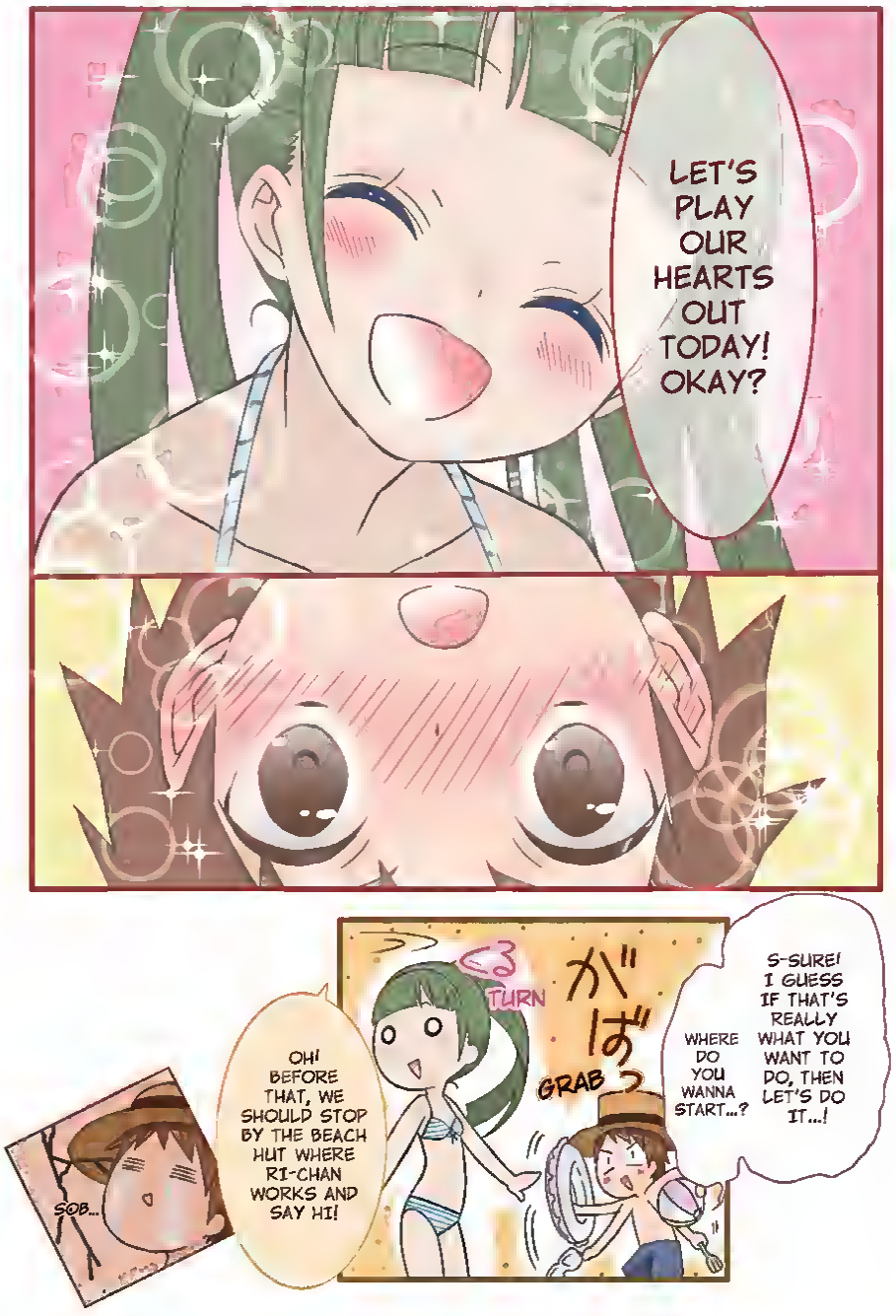
カラランCLANG'A
TEMPORARILY
CLOSED.
WE'LL WORK HARD TOMORROW!
13. BOTTARGA ~FISH ROE PASTA~
ZZZSSSSHHH...
HOOO MAN, IS IT HOT!
THIS SUN'S GONNA BAKE ME DRY!
WHAT AM I EVEN DOING HERE, ANYWAY...?

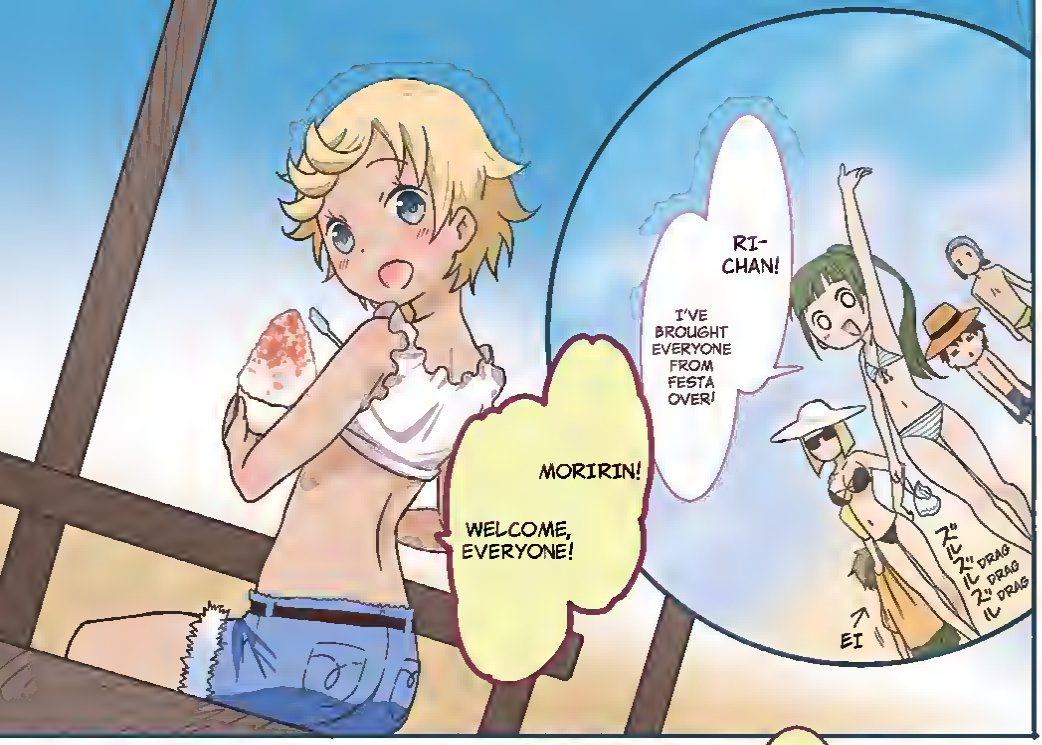

YESTERDAY
HEY, MALLOW-SAN. MY FRIEND JUST INVITED US TO HANG OUT AT THE BEACH WITH HER.
THE BEACH?
YEAH. RIGHT NOW SHE'S PART-TIMING IT AT A BEACH HUT.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN HIT THE BEACH, MAN!
WE'VE GOT THE RESTAU-RANT TO WORRY ABOUT!
SNUB
I CAN'T SWIM ALL THAT WELL, ANYWAY.
I GUESS NOT, HUH...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE ALL WENT TOGETHER...
HIS FANTASY
TEE HEE HEE!
AH HA HA!
OOH HOO HOO!
OH, STOP IT, MALLOW-SAAAN!
MORINA, YOU LITTLE SO-AND-SOOOOO!
WE GO TOMORROW.
TURN
WANNA GO TO BEACH WITH MORINA WANNA SEE MORINA IN A SWIMSUIT HEH HEH HEH HEH
TOMORROW?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE RESTAURANT?

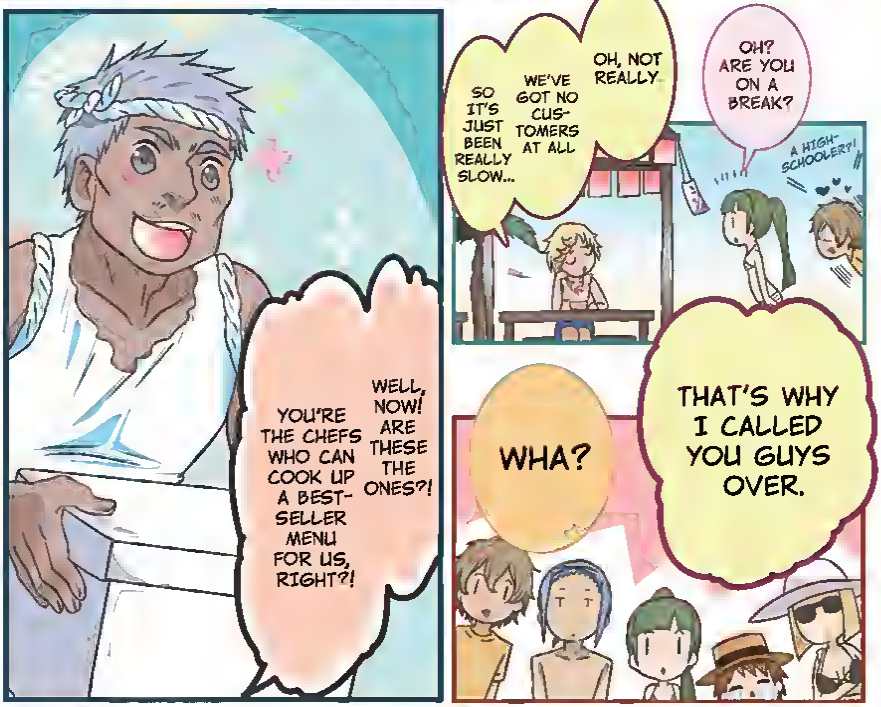

パチパチパチ...
SIZZLE SIZZLE POP
PUT GARLIC AND OLIVE OIL IN A FRYING PAN ON MEDIUM HEAT...
じゅわもわ...
SIZZLE...
THEN ADD WHITE FISH, WATER, MANILA CLAMS, WHITE WINE AND CHERRY TOMATOES, AND BRING TO A BOIL.
I GOT EXCITED AT THE IDEA OF FRESH SEAFOOD RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...
—SO I BOUGHT SOME FROM THE MARKET FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
はぁ
HUFF
はぁ
HAAH
I GOT PERMISSION FROM RURI.
YOU RAN ALL THE WAY TO TSUKIJI MARKET JUST FOR THAT?!
IT SMELLS SO LOVELY..
THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS ONE 'ACQUA DI MARE"...
SKIM OFF THE FROTH, AND STEAM ON LOW HEAT WITH THE LID ON FOR 15 MINUTES.
AREN'T YOU HOT?
HEY, KIRIHIDE WHY'RE YOU COOKING OUT HERE ON THE BEACH?

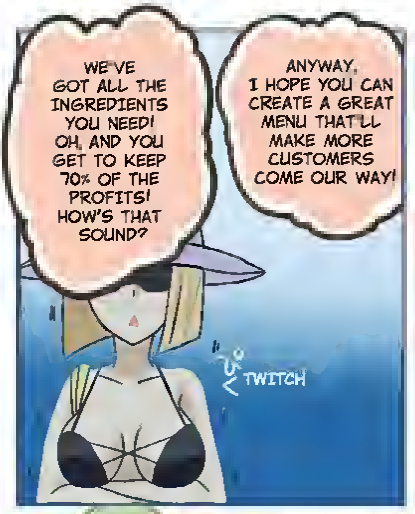
BEATS ME. I THINK HE'S AMONG THAT CROWD OF GIRLS OVER THERE.
NO WAY!
YOU'RE SOOO GOOD!
DON'T TOUCH HIM, YOU!
きゃぴ GIGGLE
きゃぴ GIGGLE
きゃぴ GIGGLE
...
PARASOL
BEACH BALL
ICE POP
SWIM RING
DIVING SET
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, LITTLE MAN.
WELL, I MIGHT BE SWIMMING WITH MORINA, OR PLAYING BEACH VOLLEYBALL WITH MORINA, OR GOING SEASHELL HUNTING WITH MORINA...
I HAD TO BRING ALL THIS I WANTED TO SEE EVERYONE SMILE TODAY.
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S EI?
MORINA RADAR
GASP
MALLOW-SAAAN!
MORINA...
MY DARLING MORINA...!
SHE'S CHANGED INTO HER SWIMSUIT...
AND IS CALLING OUT TO ME...!

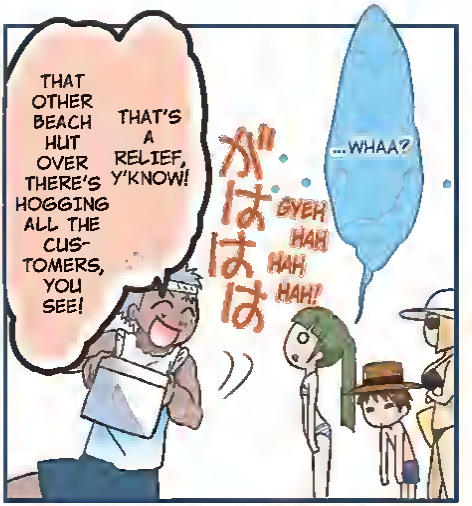

ばき…
POW…
FIX YOUR TONE, BUCKO.
HEY, MALLOW-SAN!
SHIFT
STAND ASIDE, YOU OLD WITCH!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MALLOW-SAN?
WOW, YOU'VE GOT A FULL SET GOING! SWIM RING, SNORKEL, AND A BEACH BALL, TOO!

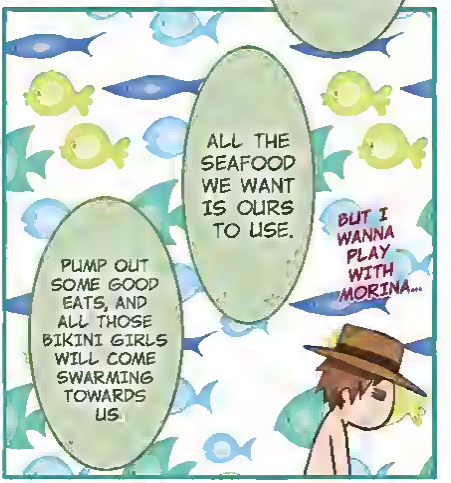

LET'S PLAY OUR HEARTS OUT TODAY! OKAY?
S-SURE! I GUESS IF THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, THEN LET'S DO IT...!
WHERE DO YOU WANNA START...?
TURN
がば
GRAB
OH! BEFORE THAT, WE SHOULD STOP BY THE BEACH HUT WHERE RI-CHAN WORKS AND SAY HI!
SOB...


RI-CHAN!
I'VE BROUGHT EVERYONE FROM FESTA OVER!
MORIRIN!
WELCOME, EVERYONE!
ズルズル DRAG DRAG DRAG
EI

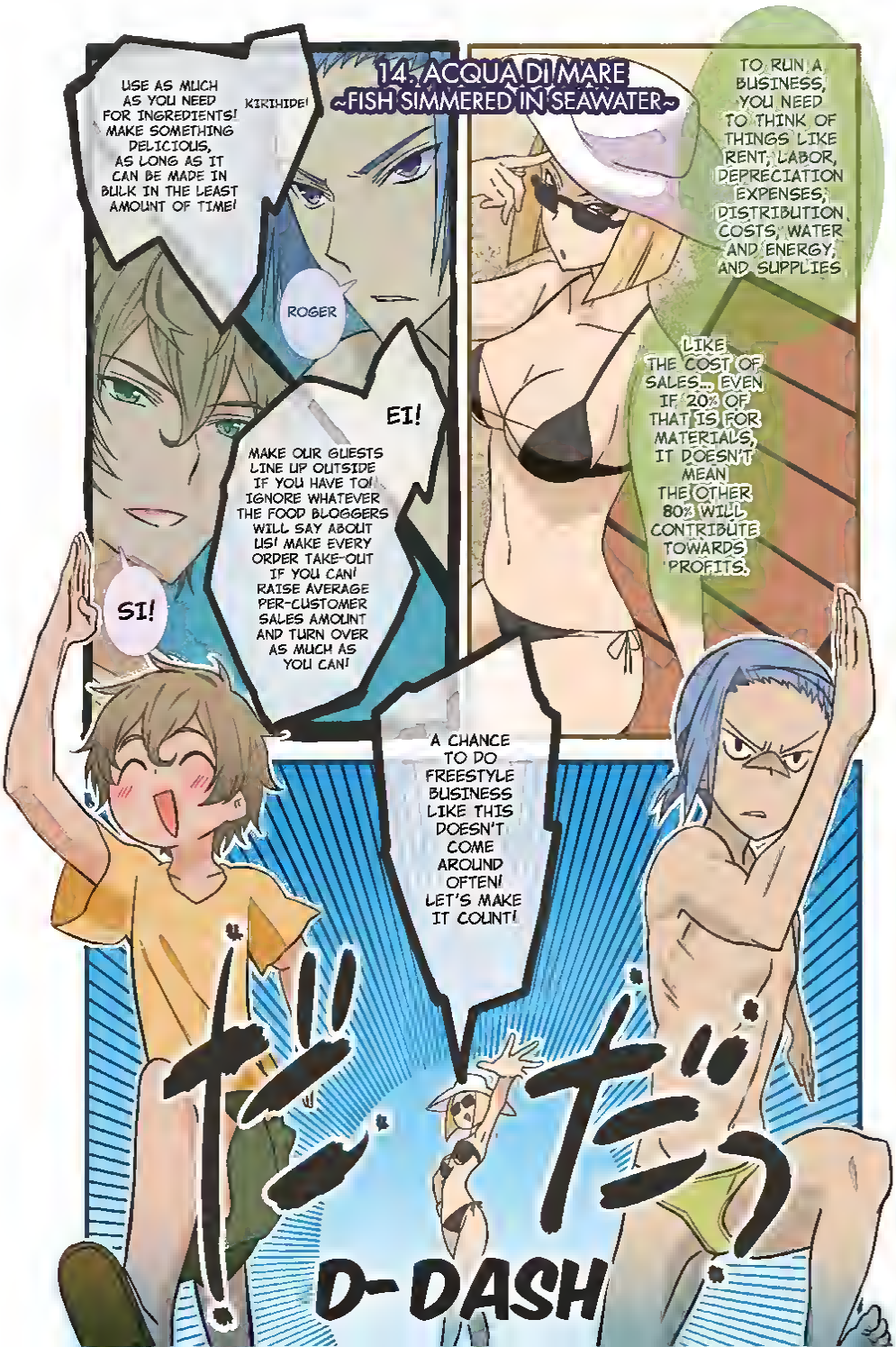

WELL, NOW! ARE THESE THE ONES?!
YOU'RE THE CHEFS WHO CAN COOK UP A BEST-SELLER MENU FOR US, RIGHT?!
SO IT'S JUST BEEN REALLY SLOW...
WE'VE GOT NO CUS-TOMERS AT ALL
OH, NOT REALLY.
OH? ARE YOU ON A BREAK?
A HIGH-SCHOOLER?!
WHA?
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU GUYS OVER.


WE'VE GOT ALL THE INGREDIENTS YOU NEED! OH, AND YOU GET TO KEEP 70% OF THE PROFITS! HOW'S THAT SOUND?
ANYWAY, I HOPE YOU CAN CREATE A GREAT MENU THAT'LL MAKE MORE CUSTOMERS COME OUR WAY!
TWITCH




YOU HEAR THAT, FOOD-WIZARDS?
ALL THE SEAFOOD WE WANT IS OURS TO USE.
PUMP OUT SOME GOOD EATS, AND ALL THOSE BIKINI GIRLS WILL COME SWARMING TOWARDS US.
BUT I WANNA PLAY WITH MORINA...

S: THE SCRIPT SAID 'YOU HEARD THAT', BUT IT KINDA SOUNDS ODD TO ME. WOULD THIS BE OKAY ?


14. ACQUA DI MARE
~FISH SIMMERED IN SEAWATER~
USE AS MUCH AS YOU NEED FOR INGREDIENTS! MAKE SOMETHING DELICIOUS, AS LONG AS IT CAN BE MADE IN BULK IN THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TIME!
KIRIHIDE!
ROGER
EI!
MAKE OUR GUESTS LINE UP OUTSIDE IF YOU HAVE TO! IGNORE WHATEVER THE FOOD BLOGGERS WILL SAY ABOUT US! MAKE EVERY ORDER TAKE-OUT IF YOU CAN! RAISE AVERAGE PER-CUSTOMER SALES AMOUNT AND TURN OVER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!
SI!
TO RUN A BUSINESS, YOU NEED TO THINK OF THINGS LIKE RENT, LABOR, DEPRECIATION EXPENSES, DISTRIBUTION COSTS, WATER AND ENERGY, AND SUPPLIES
LIKE THE COST OF SALES... EVEN IF 20% OF THAT IS FOR MATERIALS, IT DOESN'T MEAN THE OTHER 80% WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS PROFITS.
A CHANCE TO DO FREESTYLE BUSINESS LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME AROUND OFTEN! LET'S MAKE IT COUNT!
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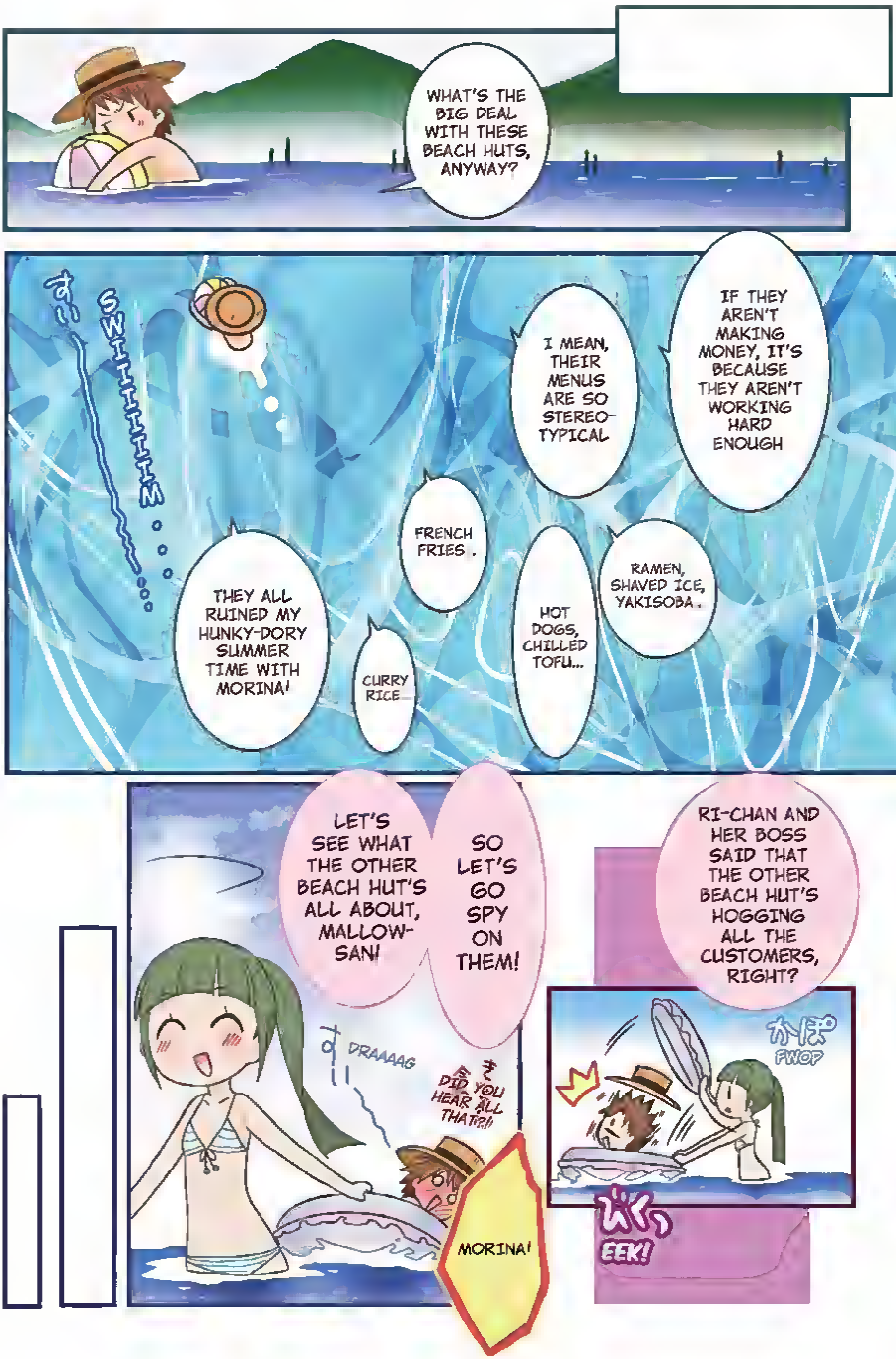
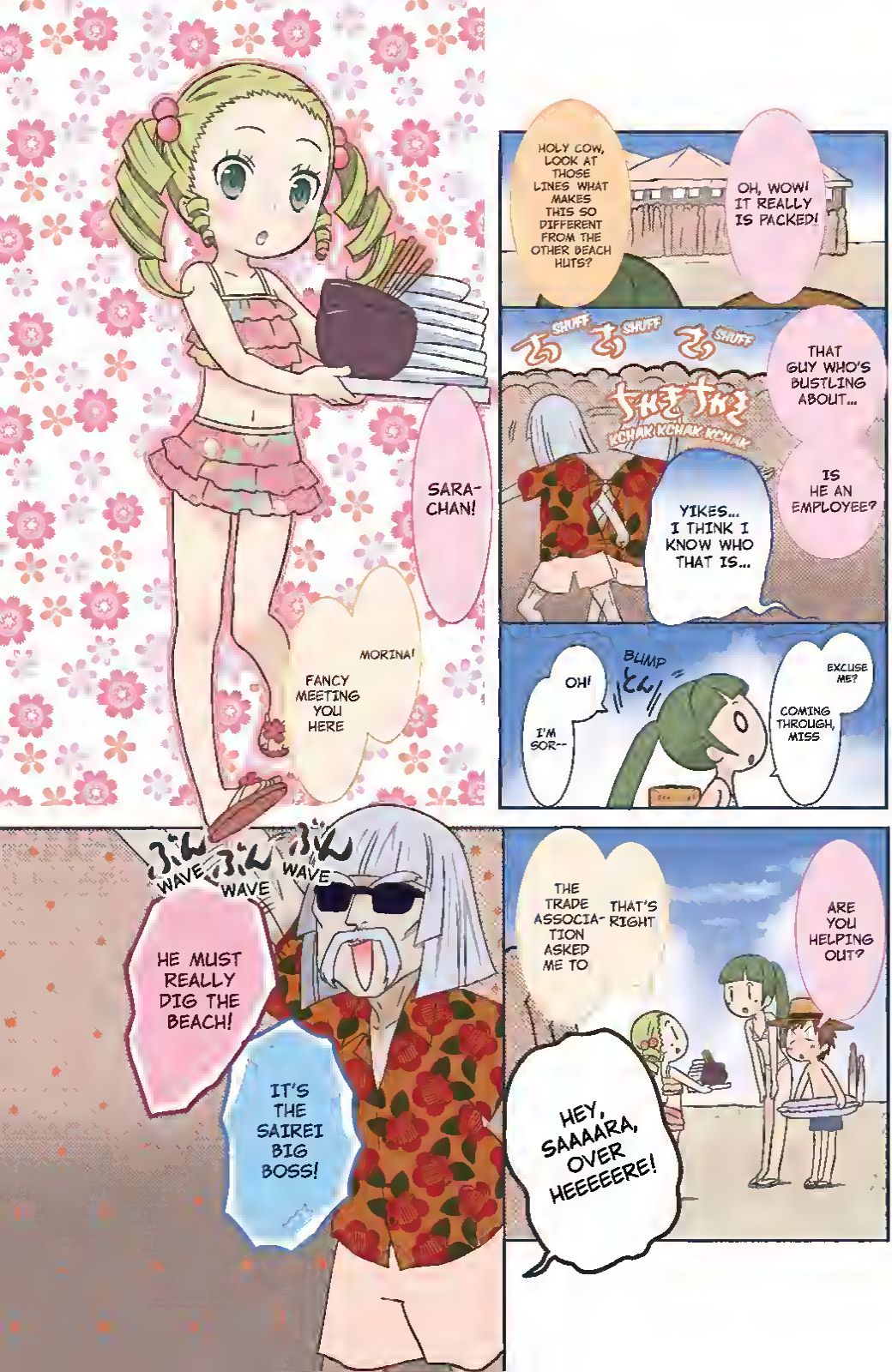
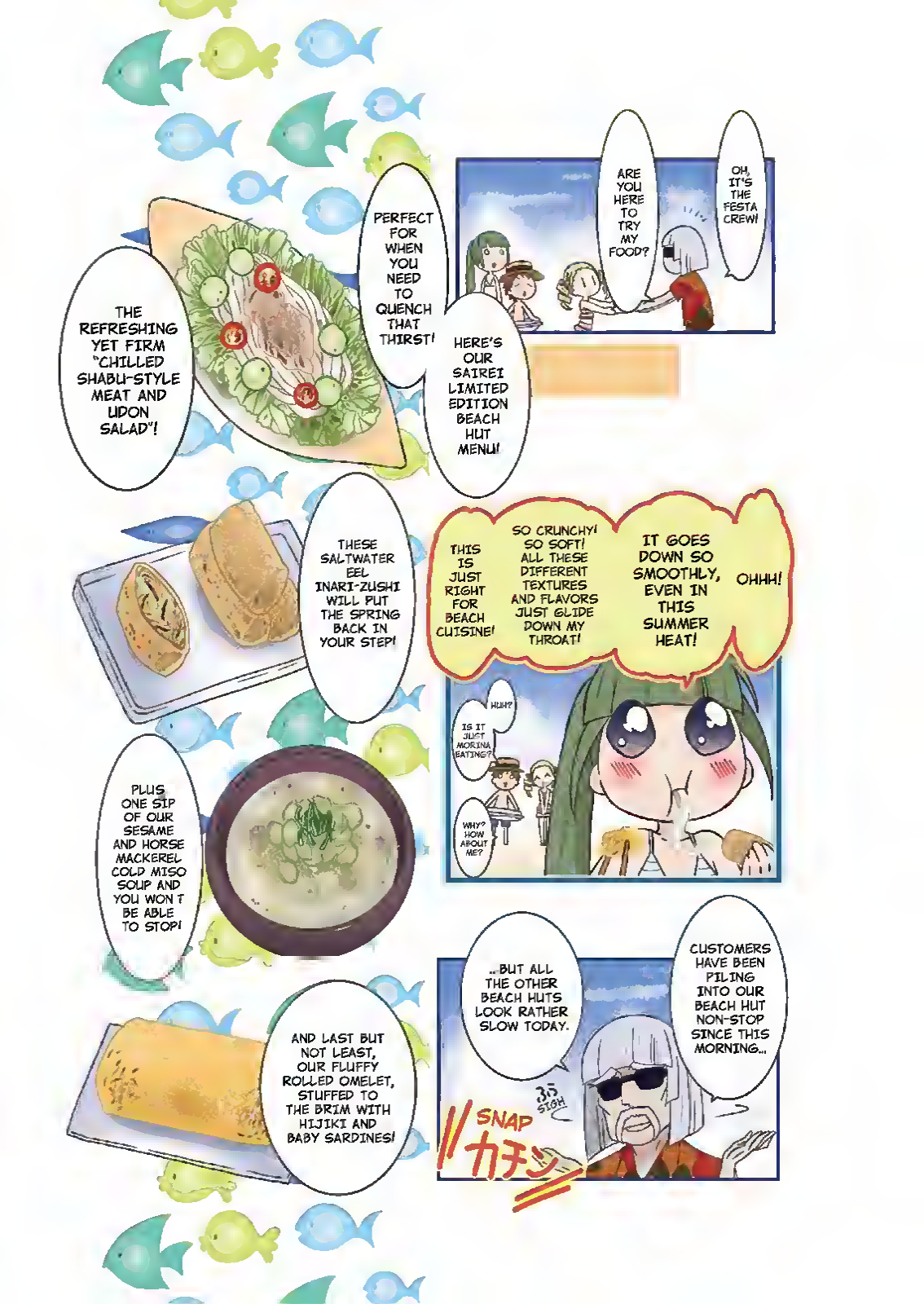
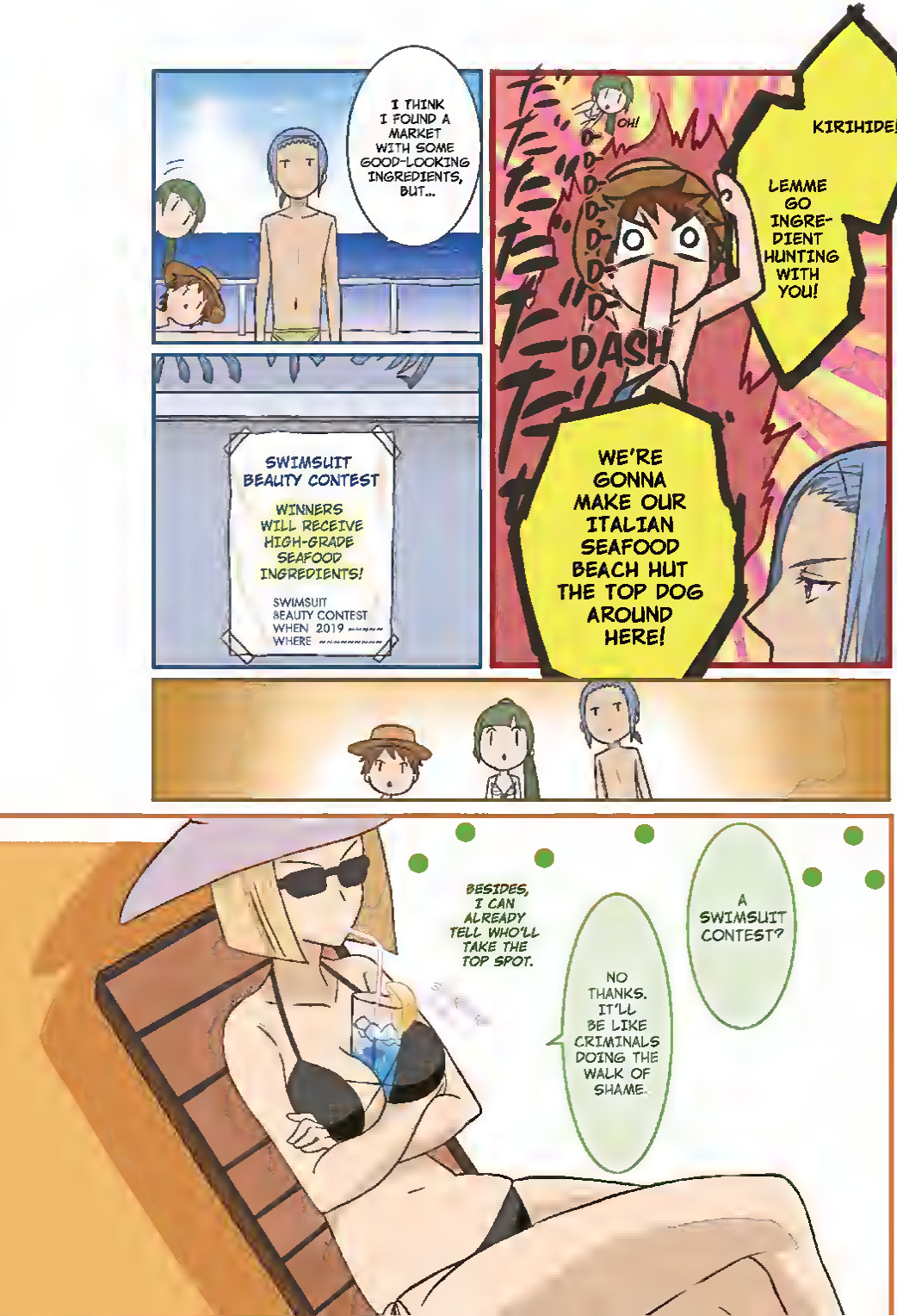
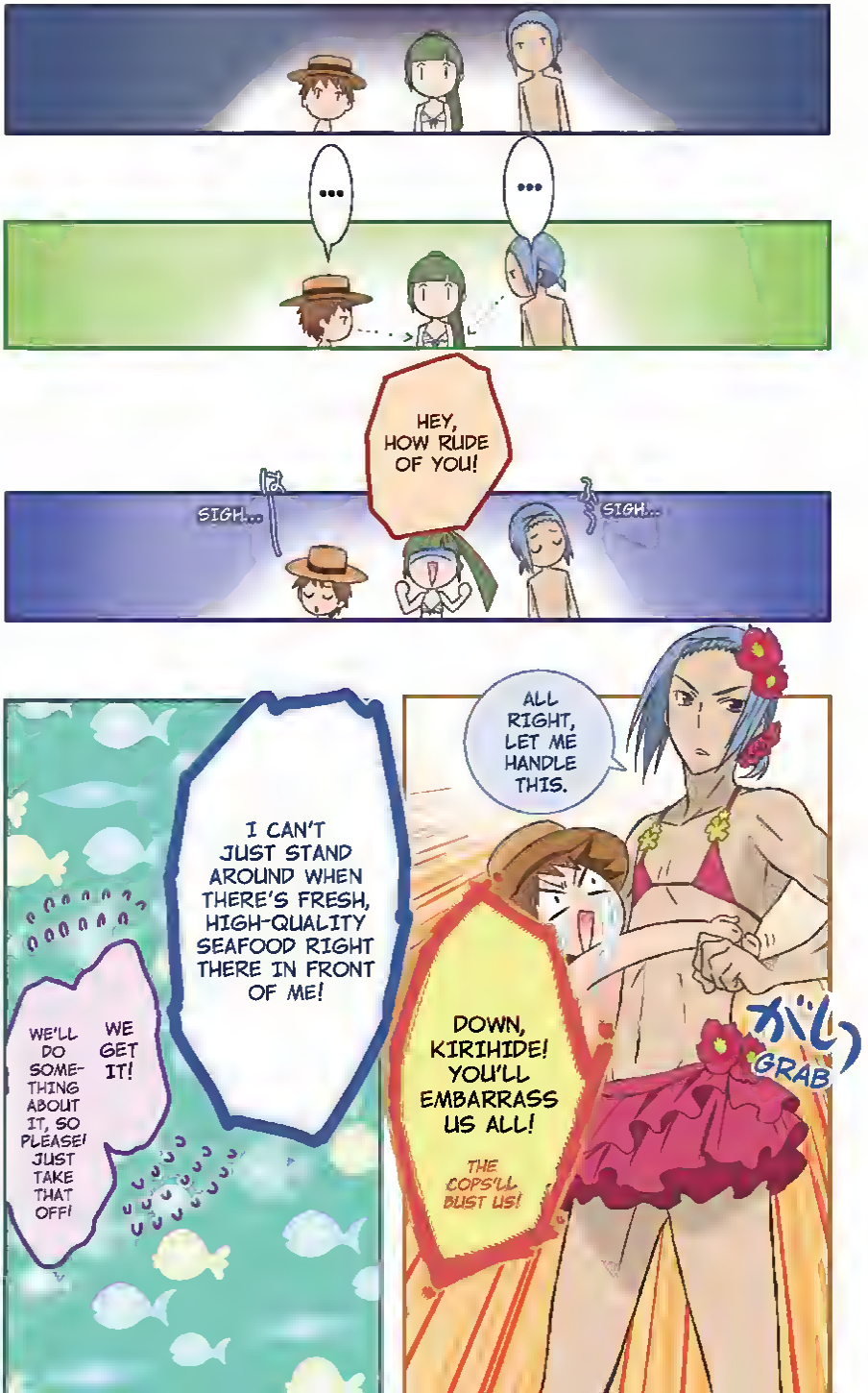
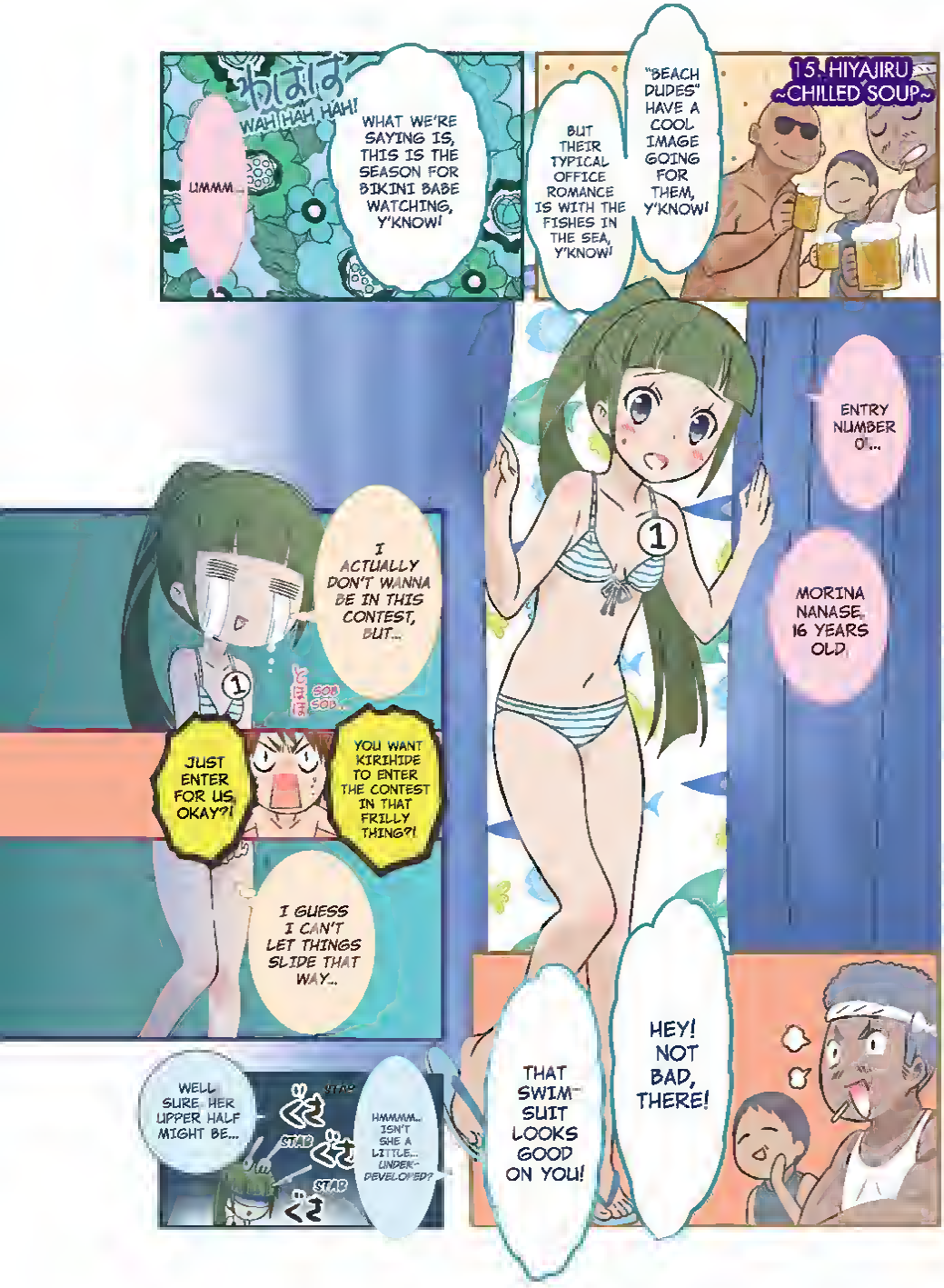

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THESE BEACH HUTS, ANYWAY?
SWIIIIIIM
IF THEY AREN'T MAKING MONEY, IT'S BECAUSE THEY AREN'T WORKING HARD ENOUGH
I MEAN, THEIR MENUS ARE SO STEREO-TYPICAL
RAMEN, SHAVED ICE, YAKISOBA.
HOT DOGS, CHILLED TOFU...
FRENCH FRIES.
CURRY RICE...
THEY ALL RUINED MY HUNKY-DORY SUMMER TIME WITH MORINA!
RI-CHAN AND HER BOSS SAID THAT THE OTHER BEACH HUT'S HOGGING ALL THE CUSTOMERS, RIGHT?
SO LET'S GO SPY ON THEM!
LET'S SEE WHAT THE OTHER BEACH HUT'S ALL ABOUT, MALLOW-SAN!
FWOP
EEK!
DRAAAAG
DID YOU HEAR ALL THAT?!!
MORINA!

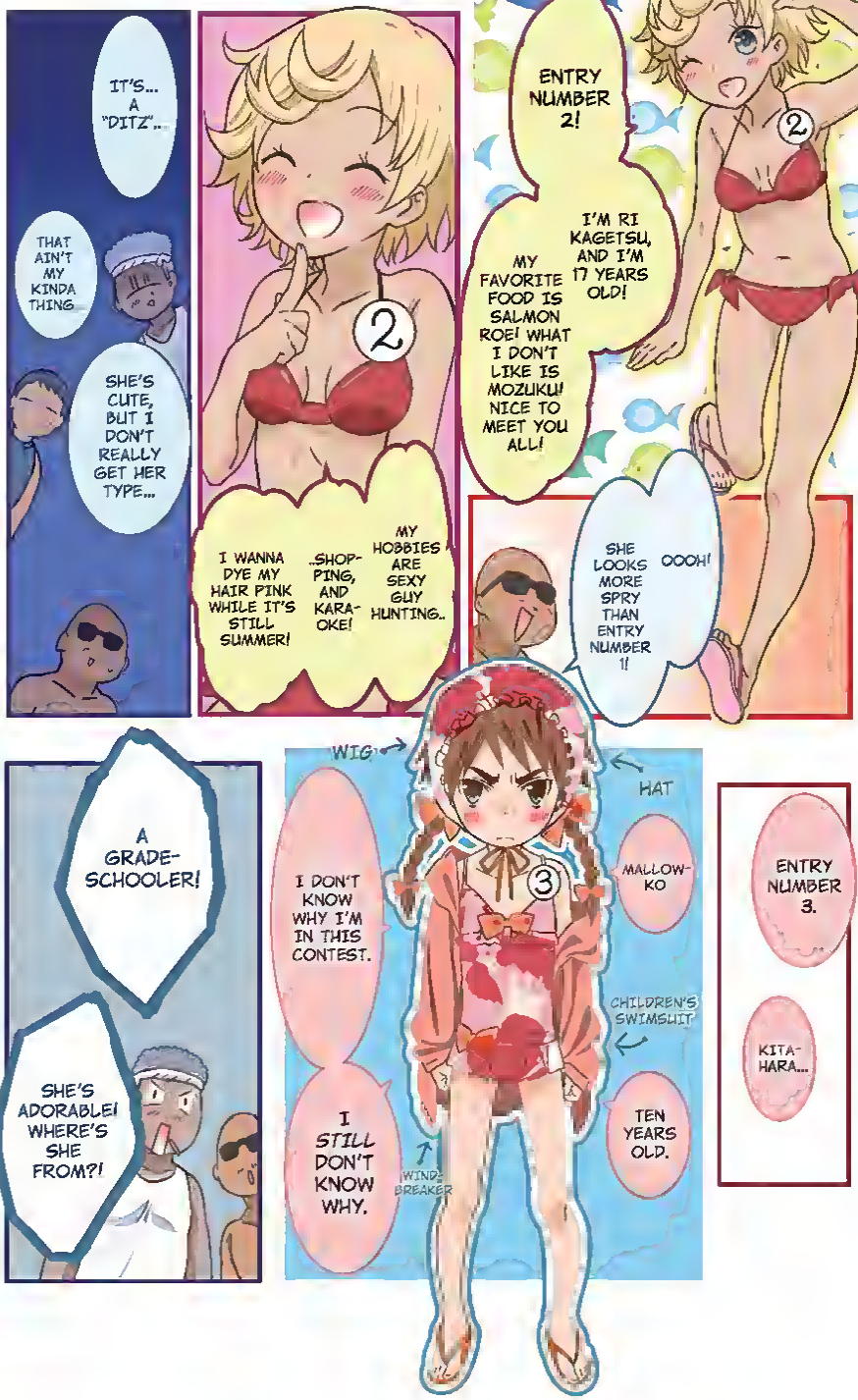

SARA-CHAN!
MORINA!
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE
HOLY COW, LOOK AT THOSE LINES WHAT MAKES THIS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER BEACH HUTS?
OH, WOW! IT REALLY IS PACKED!
SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF
KCHAK KCHAK KCH..K
THAT GUY WHO'S BUSTLING ABOUT...
IS HE AN EMPLOYEE?
YIKES... I THINK I KNOW WHO THAT IS...
BLIMP
OH!
I'M SOR--
EXCUSE ME?
COMING THROUGH, MISS
WAVE
WAVE
WAVE
HE MUST REALLY DIG THE BEACH!
IT'S THE SAIREI BIG BOSS!
THE TRADE ASSOCIA-TION ASKED ME TO
THAT'S RIGHT
ARE YOU HELPING OUT?
HEY, SAAAARA, OVER HEEEEERE!


OH, IT'S THE FESTA CREW!
ARE YOU HERE TO TRY MY FOOD?
HERE'S OUR SAIREI LIMITED EDITION BEACH HUT MENU!
PERFECT FOR WHEN YOU NEED TO QUENCH THAT THIRST!
THE REFRESHING YET FIRM "CHILLED SHABU-STYLE MEAT AND UDON SALAD"!
THESE SALTWATER EEL INARI-ZUSHI WILL PUT THE SPRING BACK IN YOUR STEP!
OHHH!
IT GOES DOWN SO SMOOTHLY, EVEN IN THIS SUMMER HEAT!
SO CRUNCHY! SO SOFT! ALL THESE DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND FLAVORS JUST GLIDE DOWN MY THROAT!
THIS IS JUST RIGHT FOR BEACH CUISINE!
HUH?
IS IT JUST MORINA EATING?
WHY? HOW ABOUT ME?
PLUS ONE SIP OF OUR SESAME AND HORSE MACKEREL COLD MISO SOUP AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP!
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, OUR FLUFFY ROLLED OMELET, STUFFED TO THE BRIM WITH HIJIKI AND BABY SARDINES!
CUSTOMERS HAVE BEEN PILING INTO OUR BEACH HUT NON-STOP SINCE THIS MORNING...
..BUT ALL THE OTHER BEACH HUTS LOOK RATHER SLOW TODAY.
35 SIGH
SNAP
カチッ

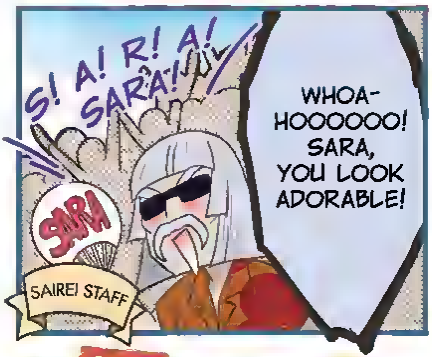

I THINK I FOUND A MARKET WITH SOME GOOD-LOOKING INGREDIENTS, BUT...
SWIMSUIT BEAUTY CONTEST
WINNERS WILL RECEIVE HIGH-GRADE SEAFOOD INGREDIENTS!
SWIMSUIT BEAUTY CONTEST
WHEN 2019 ~~~~
WHERE ~~~~~~~~~~
OH!
D-D-D-D-D-D-D-
DASH
KIRIHIDE!
LEMME GO INGRE-DIENT HUNTING WITH YOU!
WE'RE GONNA MAKE OUR ITALIAN SEAFOOD BEACH HUT THE TOP DOG AROUND HERE!
A SWIMSUIT CONTEST?
NO THANKS. IT'LL BE LIKE CRIMINALS DOING THE WALK OF SHAME.
BESIDES, I CAN ALREADY TELL WHO'LL TAKE THE TOP SPOT.


...
...
HEY, HOW RUDE OF YOU!
SIGH...
SIGH...
I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND WHEN THERE'S FRESH, HIGH-QUALITY SEAFOOD RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF ME!
WE'LL DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT, SO PLEASE! JUST TAKE THAT OFF!
WE GET IT!
ALL RIGHT, LET ME HANDLE THIS.
DOWN, KIRIHIDE! YOU'LL EMBARRASS US ALL!
THE COPS'LL BUST US!
GRAB

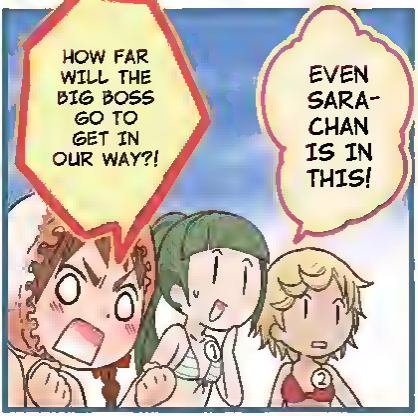

15. HIYAJIRU ~CHILLED SOUP~
"BEACH DUDES" HAVE A COOL IMAGE GOING FOR THEM, Y'KNOW!
BUT THEIR TYPICAL OFFICE ROMANCE IS WITH THE FISHES IN THE SEA, Y'KNOW!
WAHHAHHAH!
WHAT WE'RE SAYING IS, THIS IS THE SEASON FOR BIKINI BABE WATCHING, Y'KNOW!
UMMM...
ENTRY NUMBER 0!...
MORINA NANASE, 16 YEARS OLD
HEY! NOT BAD, THERE!
THAT SWIM-SUIT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!
I ACTUALLY DON'T WANNA BE IN THIS CONTEST, BUT...
SOB SOB...
JUST ENTER FOR US, OKAY?!
YOU WANT KIRIHIDE TO ENTER THE CONTEST IN THAT FRILLY THING?!
I GUESS I CAN'T LET THINGS SLIDE THAT WAY...
WELL SURE, HER UPPER HALF MIGHT BE...
STAB
HMMMM... ISN'T SHE A LITTLE... UNDER-DEVELOPED?


IT'S... A "DITZ"...
THAT AIN'T MY KINDA THING...
SHE'S CUTE, BUT I DON'T REALLY GET HER TYPE...
2
I WANNA DYE MY HAIR PINK WHILE IT'S STILL SUMMER!
..SHOPPING, AND KARAOKE!
MY HOBBIES ARE SEXY GUY HUNTING..
ENTRY NUMBER 2!
I'M RI KAGETSU, AND I'M 17 YEARS OLD!
MY FAVORITE FOOD IS SALMON ROE! WHAT I DON'T LIKE IS MOZUKU! NICE TO MEET YOU ALL!
SHE LOOKS MORE SPRY THAN ENTRY NUMBER 1!
OOOH!
A GRADE-SCHOOLER!
SHE'S ADORABLE! WHERE'S SHE FROM?!
WIG
HAT
3
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M IN THIS CONTEST.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY.
MALLOW-KO
CHILDREN'S SWIMSUIT
TEN YEARS OLD.
WINDBREAKER
ENTRY NUMBER 3.
KITA-HARA...

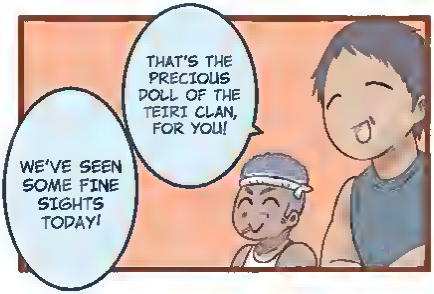
MALLOW-SAN IS SO CUTE...!
BA-BUMP
WHY'S HE SCORING MORE POINTS THAN US?!
WAH HAH HAH!
SHE'LL END UP BEING MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT TEENAGER IN OUR HUT!

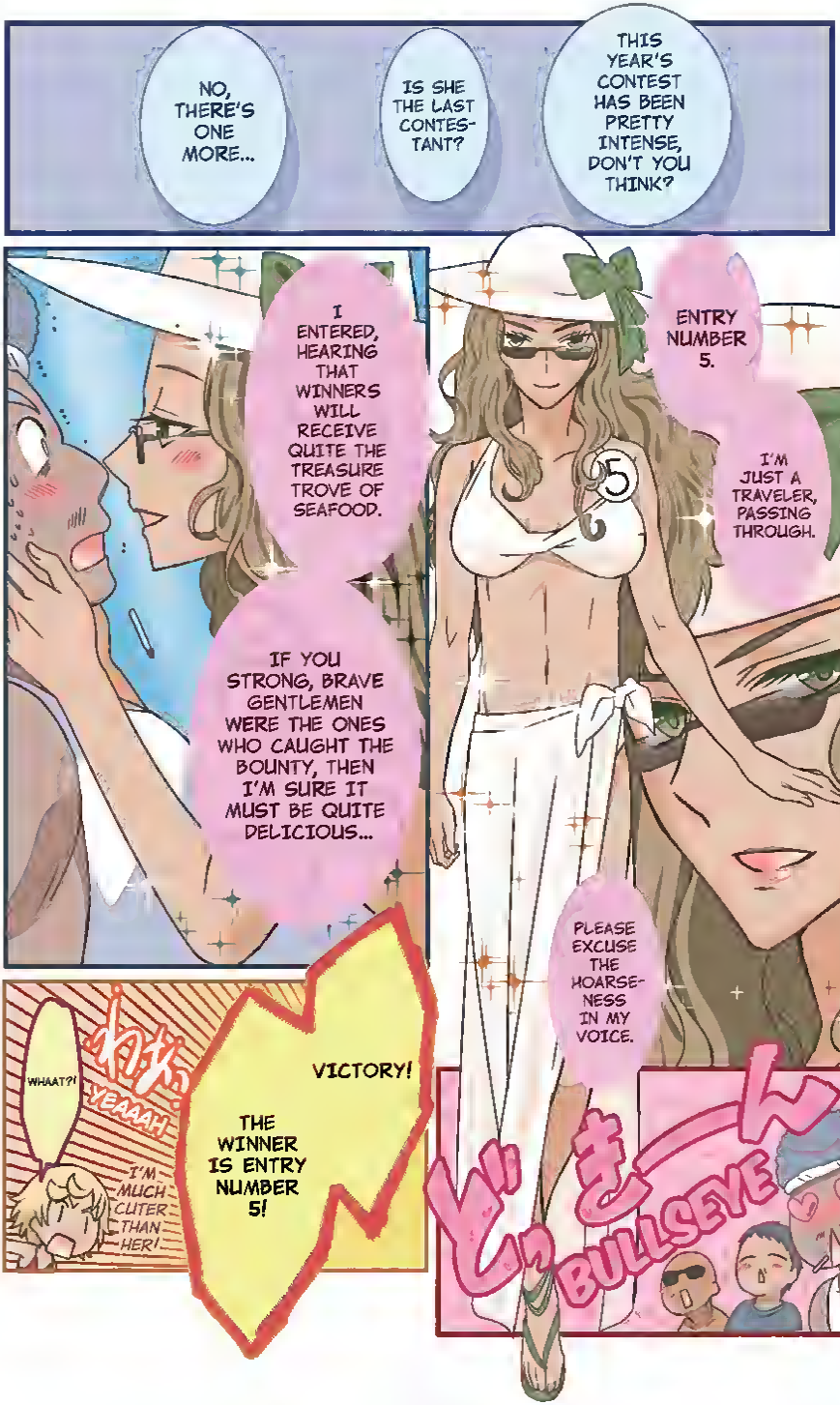

S! A! R! A! SARA!
SARA
SAIREI STAFF
WHOA-HOOOOOO! SARA, YOU LOOK ADORABLE!

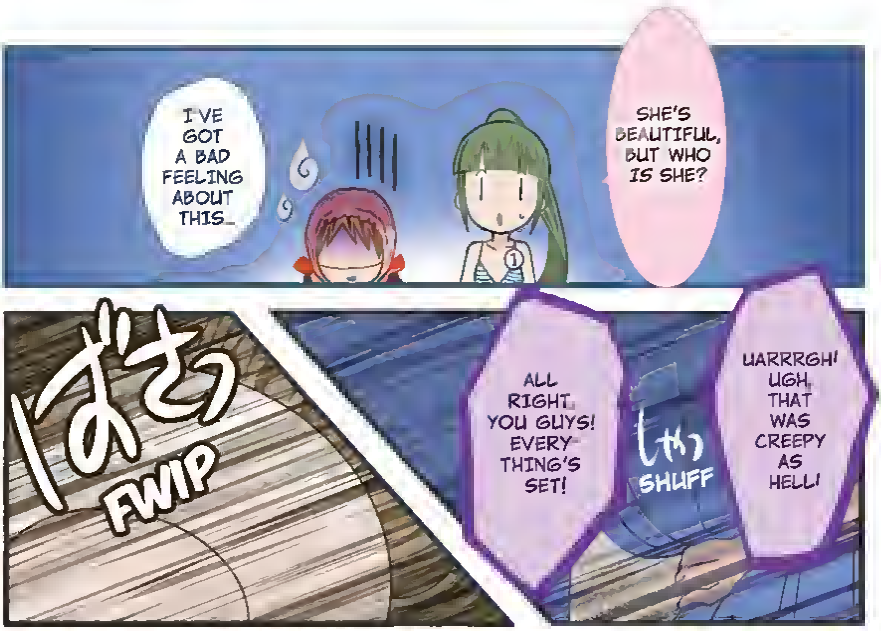
SHUFF
ENTRY NUMBER 4.

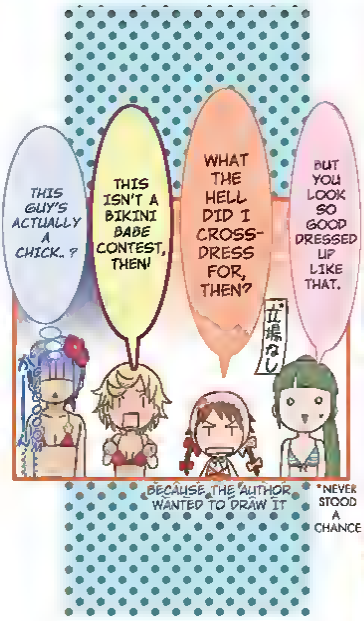

HOW FAR WILL THE BIG BOSS GO TO GET IN OUR WAY?!
EVEN SARA-CHAN IS IN THIS!

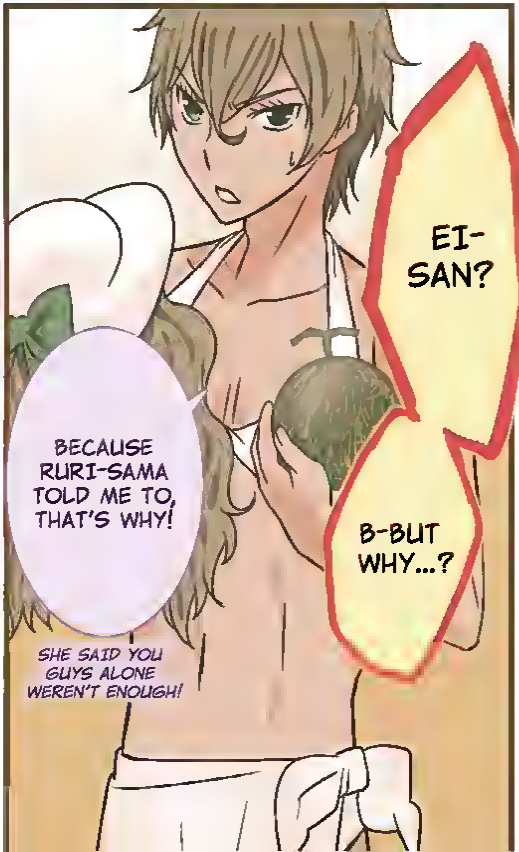
SARA TEIRI, TEN YEARS OLD.
I DIDN'T INTEND TO PARTICIPATE, BUT MY GRANDFATHER RECOMMENDED IT, SO...

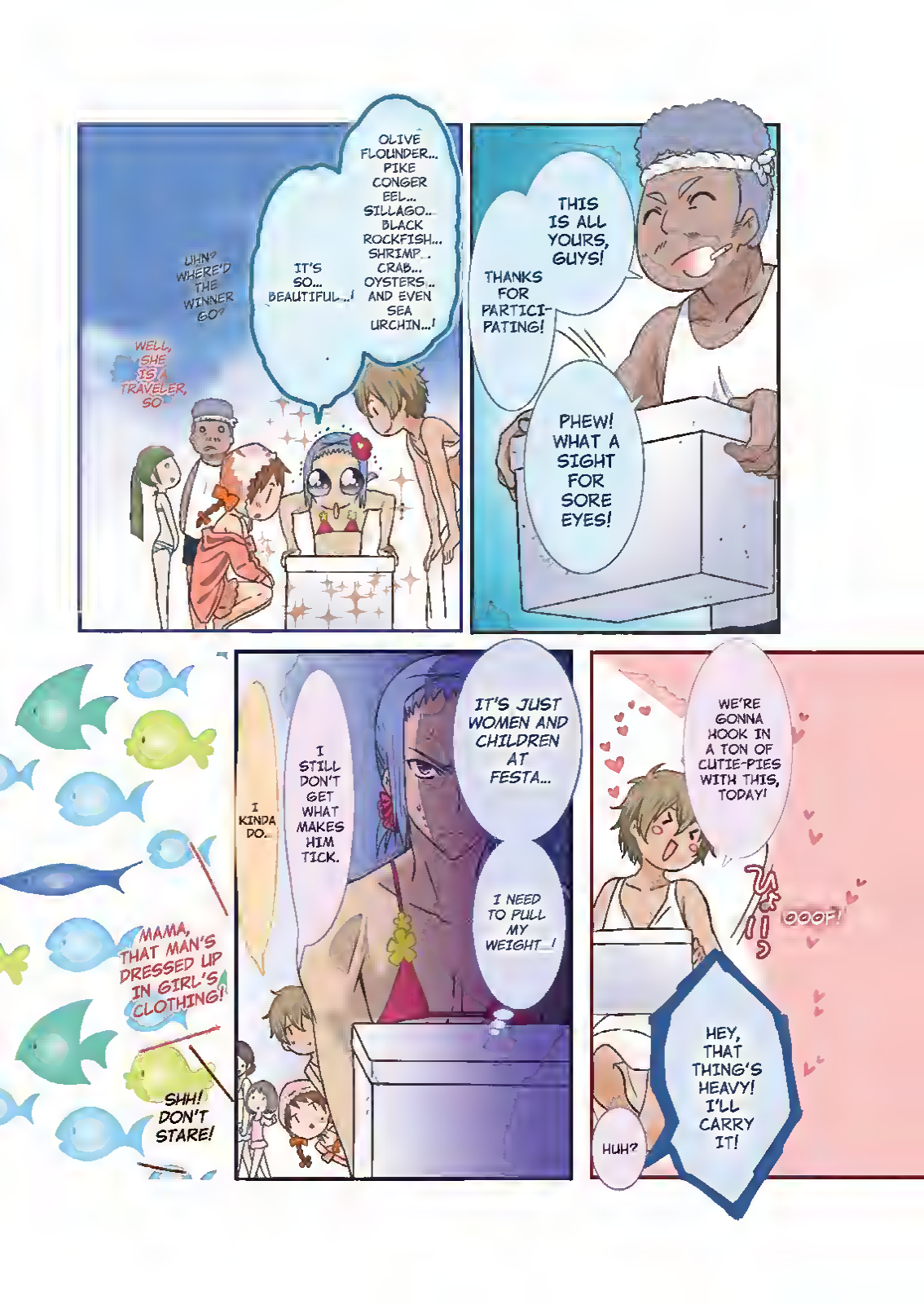

WE'VE SEEN SOME FINE SIGHTS TODAY!
THAT'S THE PRECIOUS DOLL OF THE TEIRI CLAN, FOR YOU!

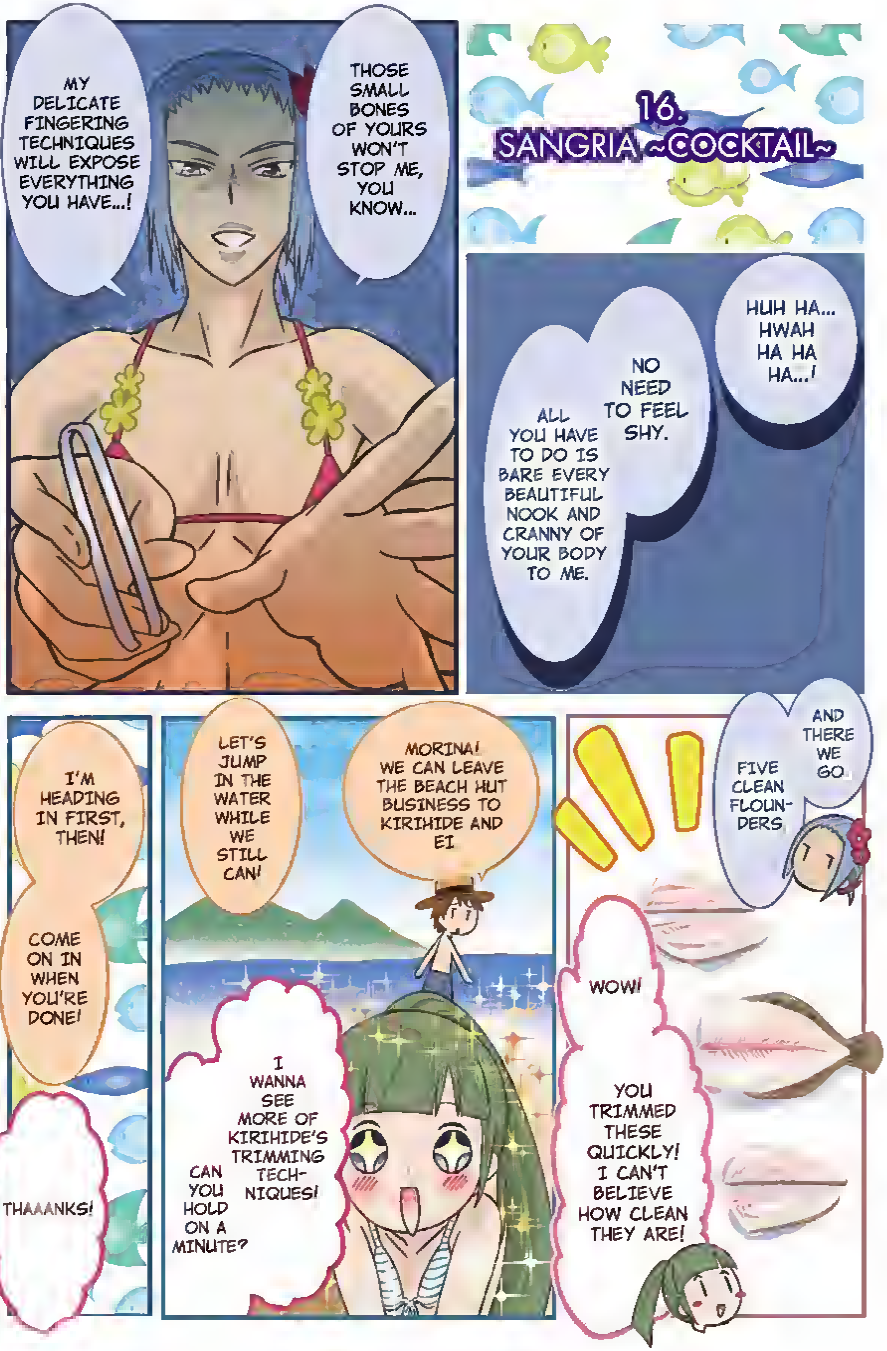

THIS YEAR'S CONTEST HAS BEEN PRETTY INTENSE, DON'T YOU THINK?
IS SHE THE LAST CONTES-TANT?
NO, THERE'S ONE MORE...
ENTRY NUMBER 5.
I'M JUST A TRAVELER, PASSING THROUGH.
I ENTERED, HEARING THAT WINNERS WILL RECEIVE QUITE THE TREASURE TROVE OF SEAFOOD.
IF YOU STRONG, BRAVE GENTLEMEN WERE THE ONES WHO CAUGHT THE BOUNTY, THEN I'M SURE IT MUST BE QUITE DELICIOUS...
PLEASE EXCUSE THE HOARSE-NESS IN MY VOICE.
どーん
BULLSEYE
VICTORY!
THE WINNER IS ENTRY NUMBER 5!
WHAAT?!
YEAAAH
I'M MUCH CUTER THAN HER!

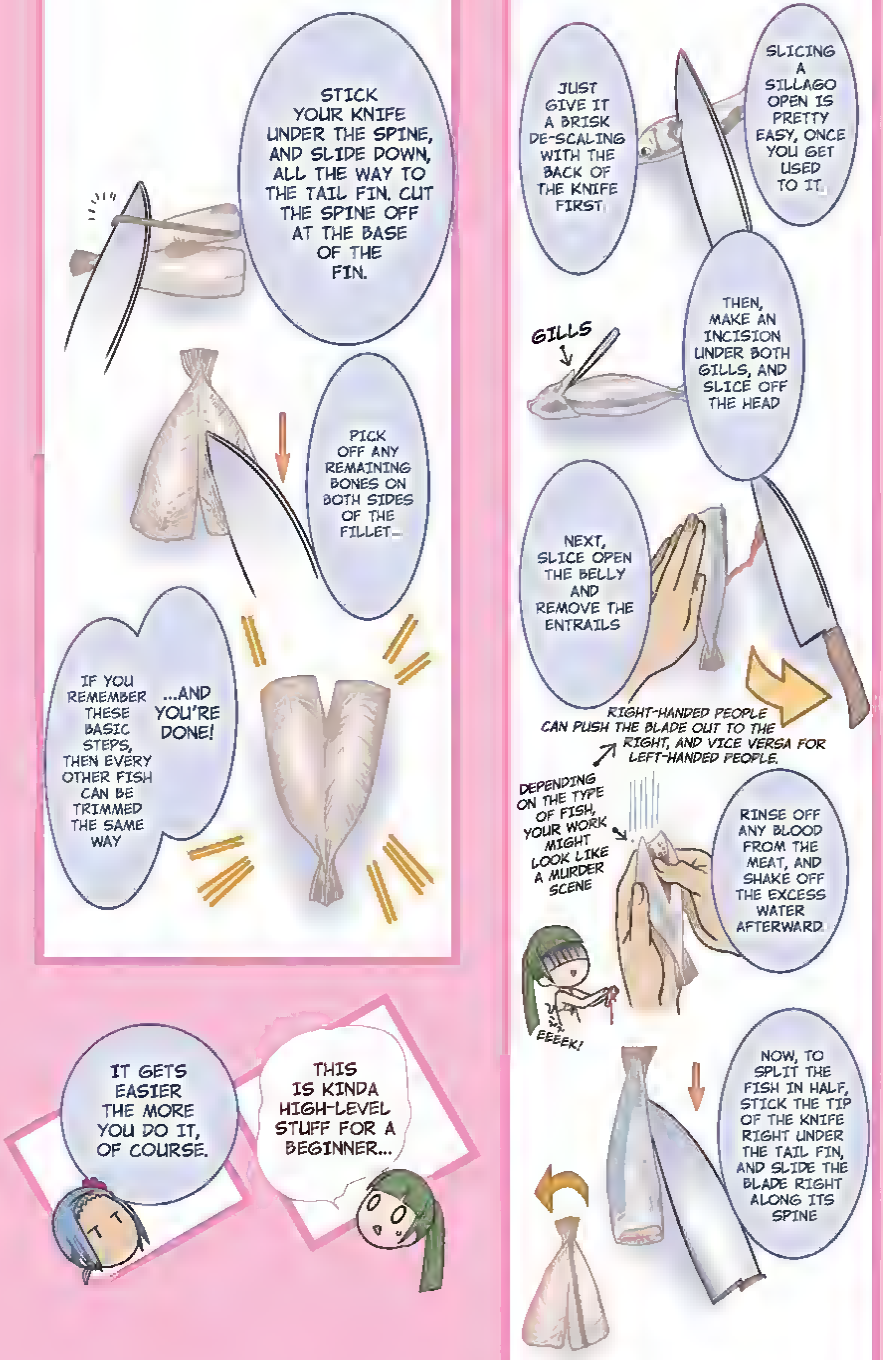

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS_
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, BUT WHO IS SHE?
ばさっ
FWIP
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS! EVERY-THING'S SET!
SHUFF
UARRRGH! UGH, THAT WAS CREEPY AS HELL!

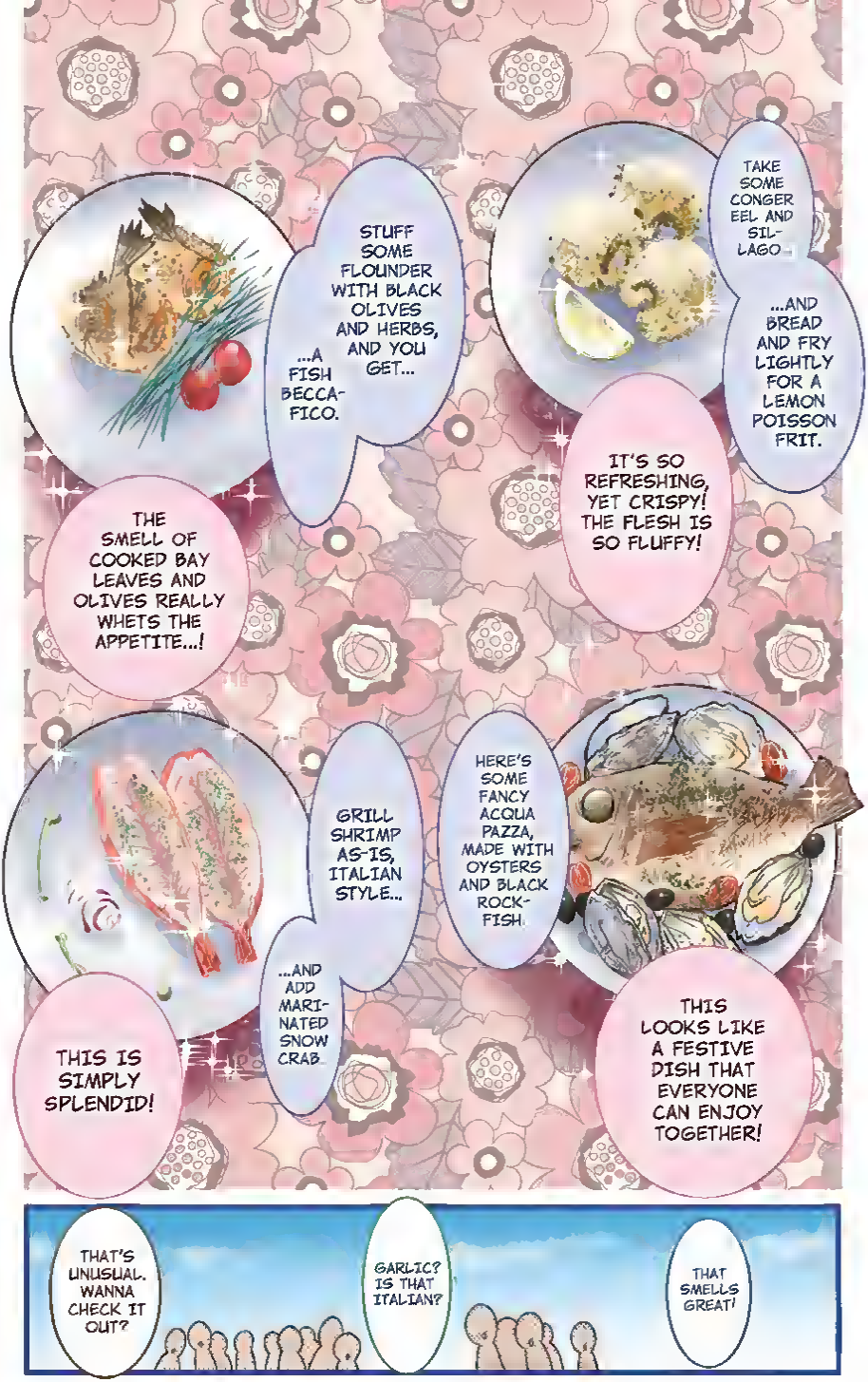

THIS GUY'S ACTUALLY A CHICK...?
THIS ISN'T A BIKINI BABE CONTEST, THEN!
WHAT THE HELL DID I CROSS-DRESS FOR, THEN?
BUT YOU LOOK SO GOOD DRESSED UP LIKE THAT.
BECAUSE THE AUTHOR WANTED TO DRAW IT
*NEVER STOOD A CHANCE

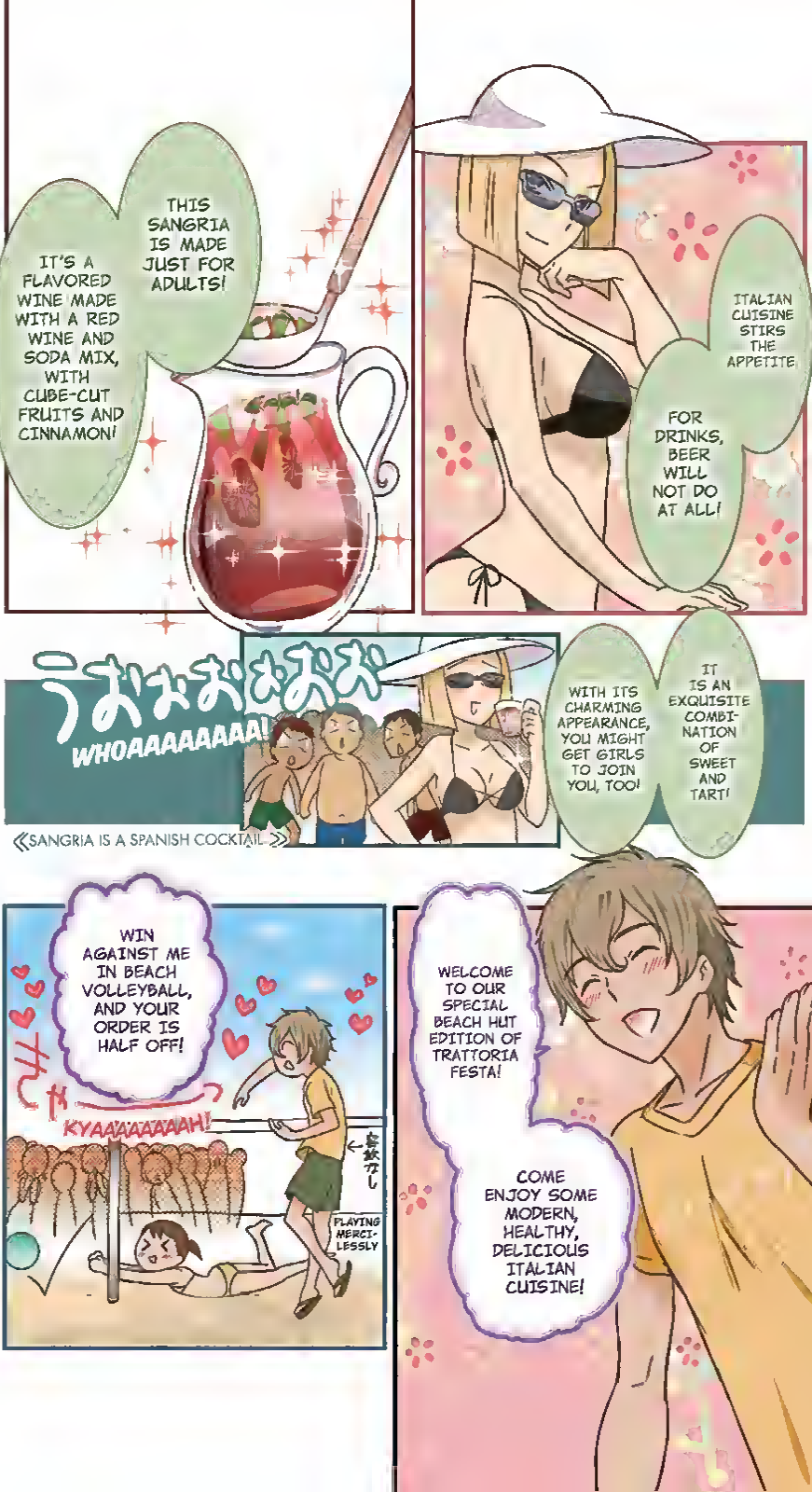

EI-SAN?
B-BUT WHY...?
BECAUSE RURI-SAMA TOLD ME TO, THAT'S WHY!
SHE SAID YOU GUYS ALONE WEREN'T ENOUGH!

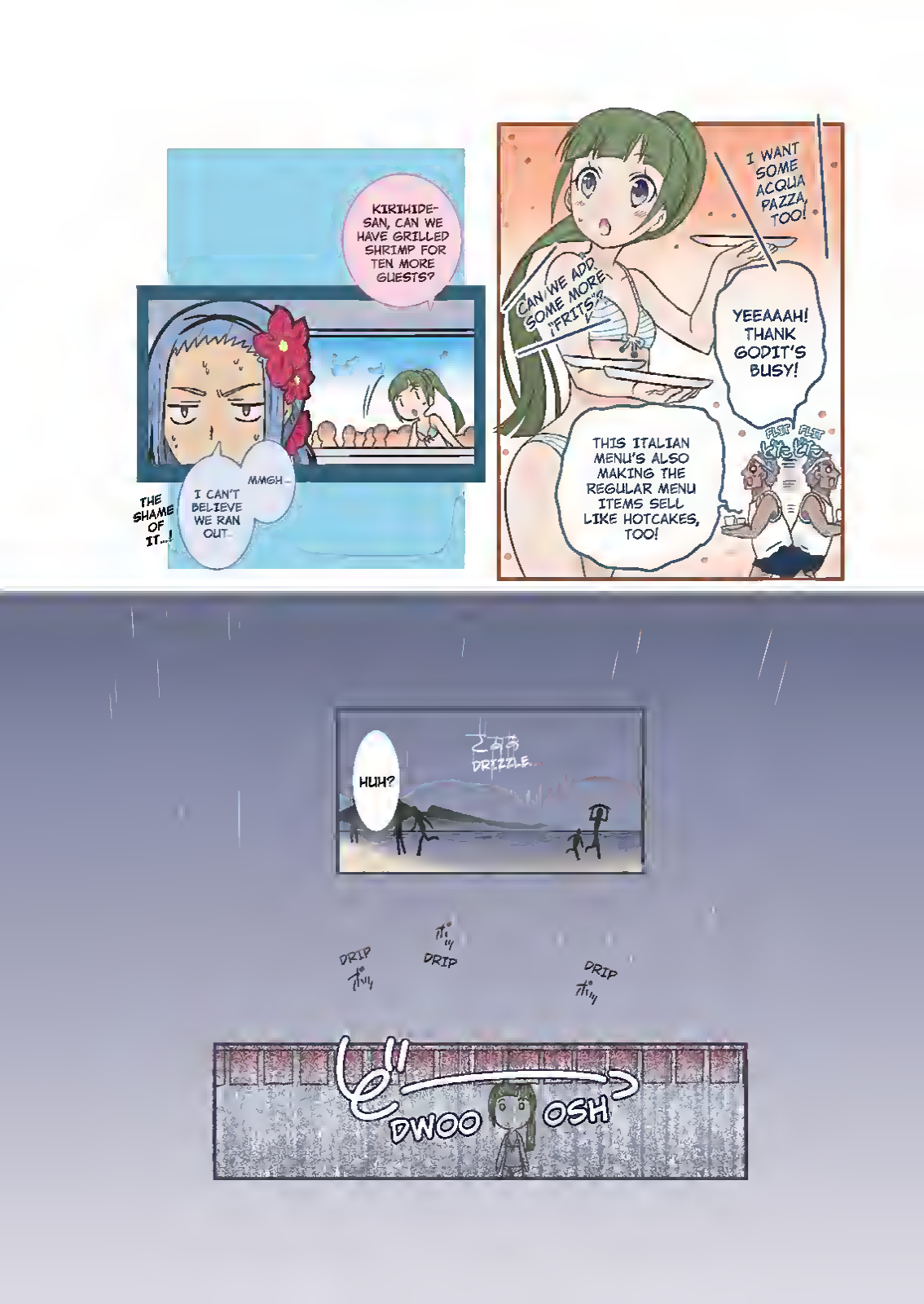

OLIVE FLOUNDER... PIKE CONGER EEL... SILLAGO... BLACK ROCKFISH... SHRIMP... CRAB... OYSTERS... AND EVEN SEA URCHIN...!
IT'S SO... BEAUTIFUL...!
UHN? WHERE'D THE WINNER GO?
WELL, SHE IS A TRAVELER, SO...
THANKS FOR PARTICI-PATING!
THIS IS ALL YOURS, GUYS!
PHEW! WHAT A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
IT'S JUST WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT FESTA...
I STILL DON'T GET WHAT MAKES HIM TICK.
I KINDA DO.
I NEED TO PULL MY WEIGHT...!
MAMA, THAT MAN'S DRESSED UP IN GIRL'S CLOTHING!
SHH! DON'T STARE!
WE'RE GONNA HOOK IN A TON OF CUTIE-PIES WITH THIS, TODAY!
OOOF!
HEY, THAT THING'S HEAVY! I'LL CARRY IT!
HUH?

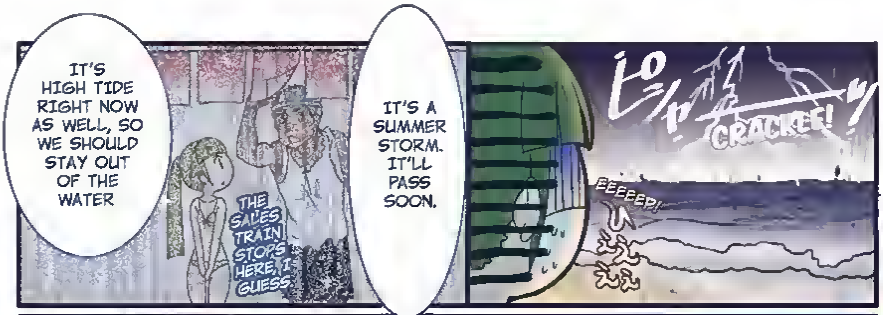

MY DELICATE FINGERING TECHNIQUES WILL EXPOSE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE...!
THOSE SMALL BONES OF YOURS WON'T STOP ME, YOU KNOW...
16.
SANGRIA ~COCKTAIL~
HUH HA... HWAH HA HA HA...!
NO NEED TO FEEL SHY.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BARE EVERY BEAUTIFUL NOOK AND CRANNY OF YOUR BODY TO ME.
I'M HEADING IN FIRST, THEN!
COME ON IN WHEN YOU'RE DONE!
THAAANKS!
LET'S JUMP IN THE WATER WHILE WE STILL CAN!
MORINA! WE CAN LEAVE THE BEACH HUT BUSINESS TO KIRIHIDE AND EI
CAN YOU HOLD ON A MINUTE?
I WANNA SEE MORE OF KIRIHIDE'S TRIMMING TECH-NIQUES!
FIVE CLEAN FLOUN-DERS
AND THERE WE GO.
WOW!
YOU TRIMMED THESE QUICKLY! I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW CLEAN THEY ARE!


SLICING A SILLAGO OPEN IS PRETTY EASY, ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.
JUST GIVE IT A BRISK DE-SCALING WITH THE BACK OF THE KNIFE FIRST.
THEN, MAKE AN INCISION UNDER BOTH GILLS, AND SLICE OFF THE HEAD
GILLS
NEXT, SLICE OPEN THE BELLY AND REMOVE THE ENTRAILS
RIGHT-HANDED PEOPLE CAN PUSH THE BLADE OUT TO THE RIGHT, AND VICE VERSA FOR LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE.
DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF FISH, YOUR WORK MIGHT LOOK LIKE A MURDER SCENE
RINSE OFF ANY BLOOD FROM THE MEAT, AND SHAKE OFF THE EXCESS WATER AFTERWARD.
EEEEK!
NOW, TO SPLIT THE FISH IN HALF, STICK THE TIP OF THE KNIFE RIGHT UNDER THE TAIL FIN, AND SLIDE THE BLADE RIGHT ALONG ITS SPINE
STICK YOUR KNIFE UNDER THE SPINE, AND SLIDE DOWN, ALL THE WAY TO THE TAIL FIN. CUT THE SPINE OFF AT THE BASE OF THE FIN.
PICK OFF ANY REMAINING BONES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FILLET.
IF YOU REMEMBER THESE BASIC STEPS, THEN EVERY OTHER FISH CAN BE TRIMMED THE SAME WAY
...AND YOU'RE DONE!
IT GETS EASIER THE MORE YOU DO IT, OF COURSE.
THIS IS KINDA HIGH-LEVEL STUFF FOR A BEGINNER...

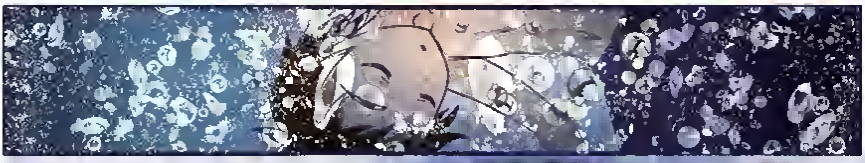

THE SMELL OF COOKED BAY LEAVES AND OLIVES REALLY WHETS THE APPETITE...!
STUFF SOME FLOUNDER WITH BLACK OLIVES AND HERBS, AND YOU GET...
...A FISH BECCA-FICO.
TAKE SOME CONGER EEL AND SIL-LAGO...
...AND BREAD AND FRY LIGHTLY FOR A LEMON POISSON FRIT.
IT'S SO REFRESHING, YET CRISPY! THE FLESH IS SO FLUFFY!
THIS IS SIMPLY SPLENDID!
GRILL SHRIMP AS-IS, ITALIAN STYLE...
...AND ADD MARI-NATED SNOW CRAB.
HERE'S SOME FANCY ACQUA PAZZA, MADE WITH OYSTERS AND BLACK ROCK-FISH.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A FESTIVE DISH THAT EVERYONE CAN ENJOY TOGETHER!
THAT'S UNUSUAL. WANNA CHECK IT OUT?
GARLIC? IS THAT ITALIAN?
THAT SMELLS GREAT!

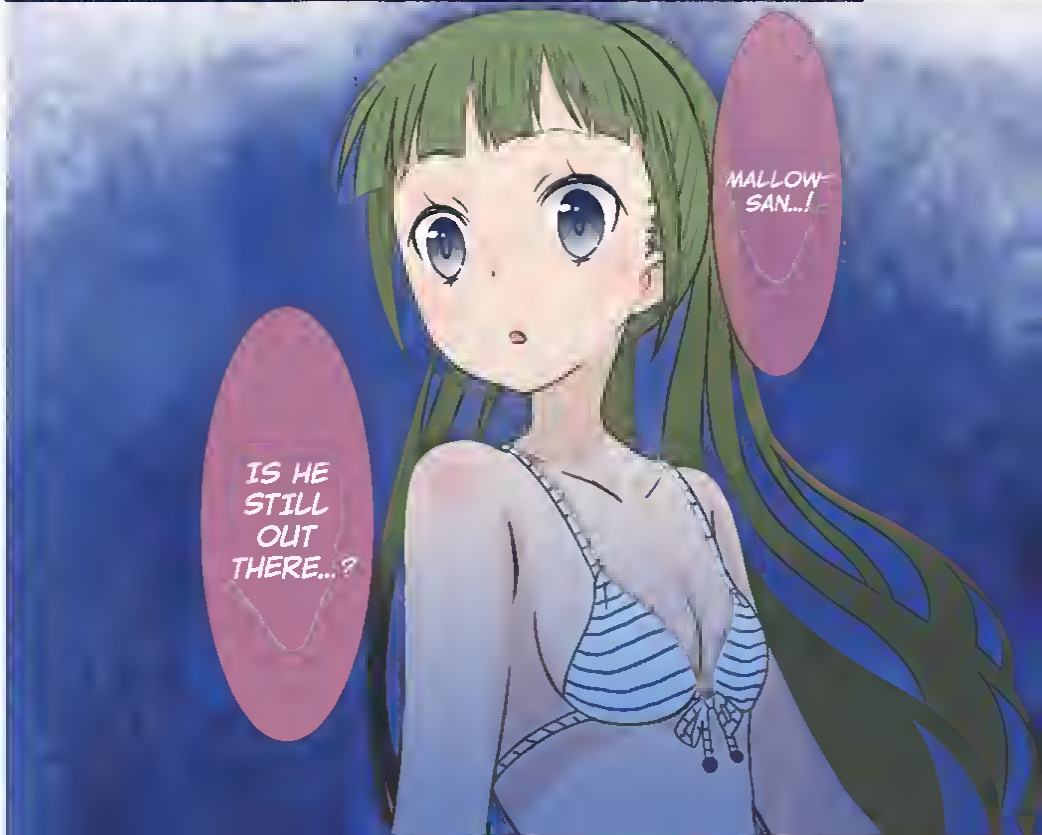

THIS SANGRIA IS MADE JUST FOR ADULTS!
IT'S A FLAVORED WINE MADE WITH A RED WINE AND SODA MIX, WITH CUBE-CUT FRUITS AND CINNAMON!
ITALIAN CUISINE STIRS THE APPETITE
FOR DRINKS, BEER WILL NOT DO AT ALL!
うおおおおお
WHOAAAAAAAA!
IT IS AN EXQUISITE COMBI-NATION OF SWEET AND TART!
WITH ITS CHARMING APPEARANCE, YOU MIGHT GET GIRLS TO JOIN YOU, TOO!
《SANGRIA IS A SPANISH COCKTAIL.》
WIN AGAINST ME IN BEACH VOLLEYBALL, AND YOUR ORDER IS HALF OFF!
KYAAAAAAAAH!
PLAYING MERCI-LESSLY
WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL BEACH HUT EDITION OF TRATTORIA FESTA!
COME ENJOY SOME MODERN, HEALTHY, DELICIOUS ITALIAN CUISINE!

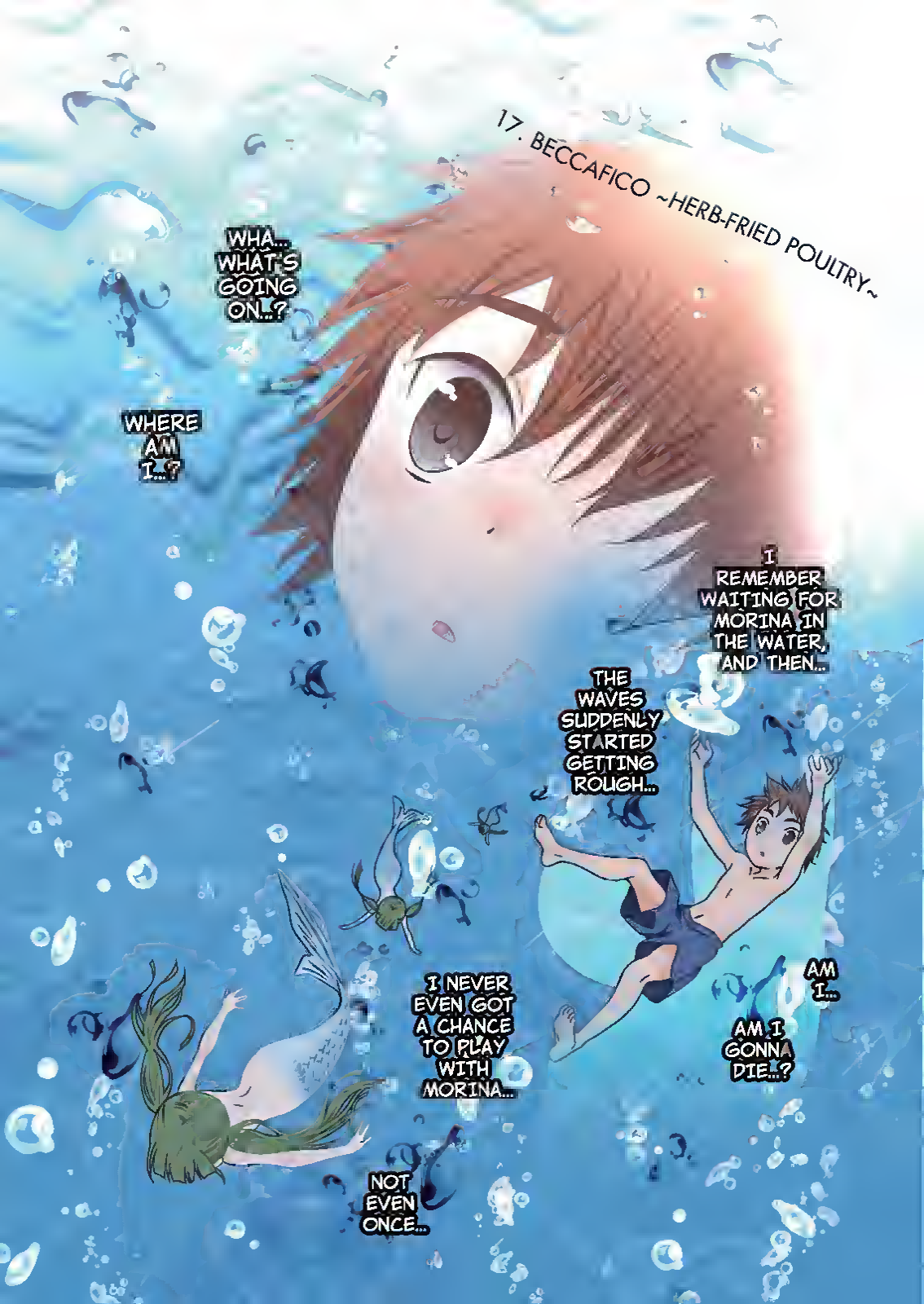

KIRIHIDE-SAN, CAN WE HAVE GRILLED SHRIMP FOR TEN MORE GUESTS?
MMGH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE RAN OUT...
THE SHAME OF IT...!
I WANT SOME ACQUA PAZZA, TOO!
CAN WE ADD SOME MORE "FRITS"?
YEEAAAH! THANK GODIT'S BUSY!
THIS ITALIAN MENU'S ALSO MAKING THE REGULAR MENU ITEMS SELL LIKE HOTCAKES, TOO!
FLIT FLIT
DRIZZLE...
HUH?
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DWOO
OSH


IT'S HIGH TIDE RIGHT NOW AS WELL, SO WE SHOULD STAY OUT OF THE WATER
THE SAUES TRAIN STOPS HERE, I GUESS.
IT'S A SUMMER STORM. IT'LL PASS SOON.
CRACKLE!
BEEEEEP!

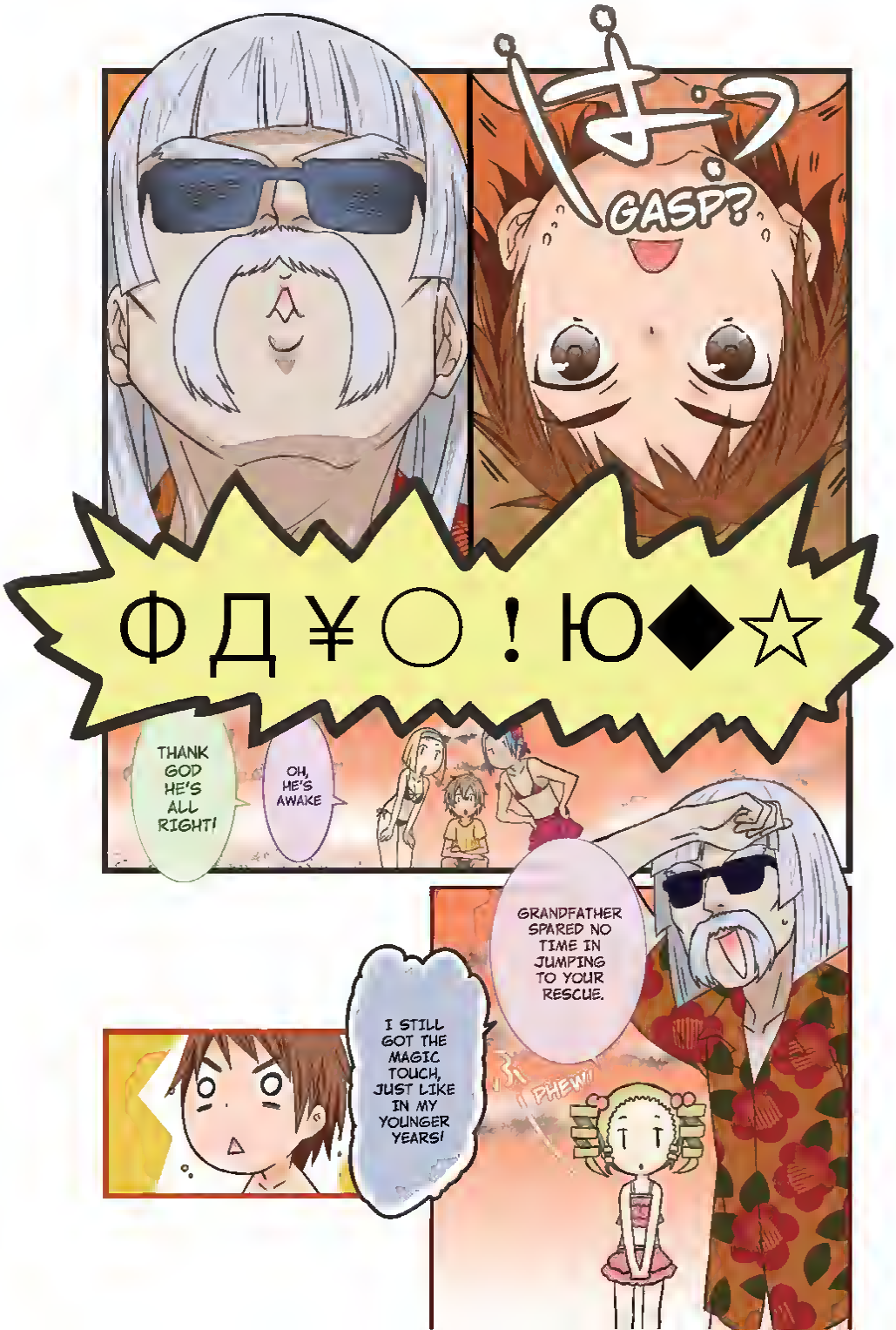
はっ
GASP

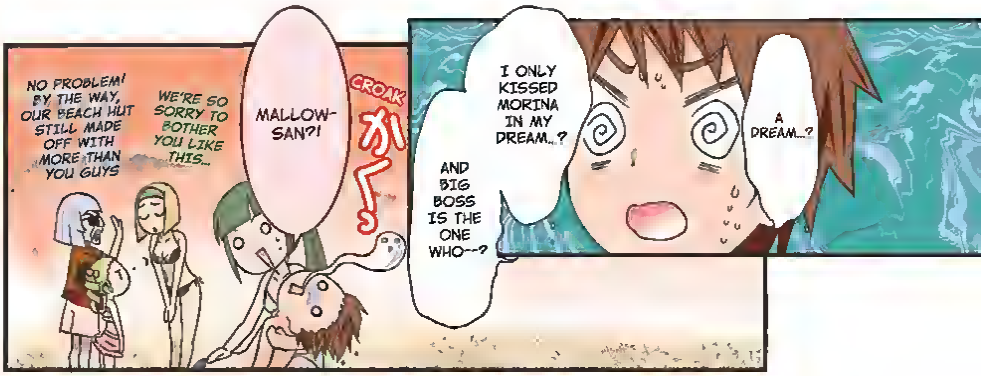


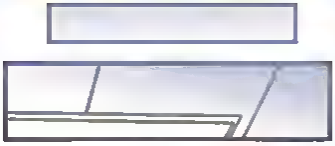

MALLOW-SAN...!
IS HE STILL OUT THERE...?

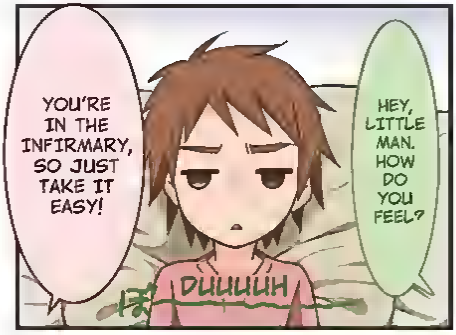

17. BECCAFICO ~HERB-FRIED POULTRY~
WHA... WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHERE AM I...?
I REMEMBER WAITING FOR MORINA IN THE WATER, AND THEN...
THE WAVES SUDDENLY STARTED GETTING ROUGH...
AM I...
AM I GONNA DIE...?
I NEVER EVEN GOT A CHANCE TO PLAY WITH MORINA...
NOT EVEN ONCE...

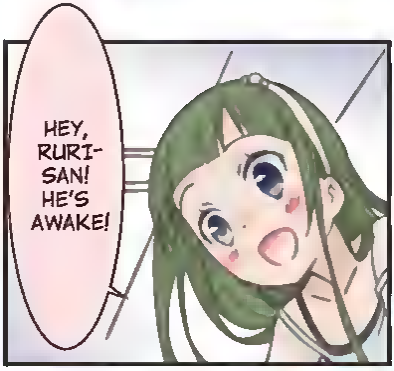
WHAT THE...?
ARE YOU A MERMAID?
MORINA...?
WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
HOLD ON A SEC... THAT'S REALLY CLOSE...
I-IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T LIKE THIS, BUT...
THIS IS SO SUDDEN... I MEAN, I'M NOT READY FOR THIS YET...
YOU'RE ACTING SO DIFFERENTLY, AND...
YOU'RE COMING ON SO STRONG!


GASP?
ΦД¥○!Ю◆☆
THANK GOD HE'S ALL RIGHT!
OH, HE'S AWAKE
GRANDFATHER SPARED NO TIME IN JUMPING TO YOUR RESCUE.
PHEW!
I STILL GOT THE MAGIC TOUCH, JUST LIKE IN MY YOUNGER YEARS!

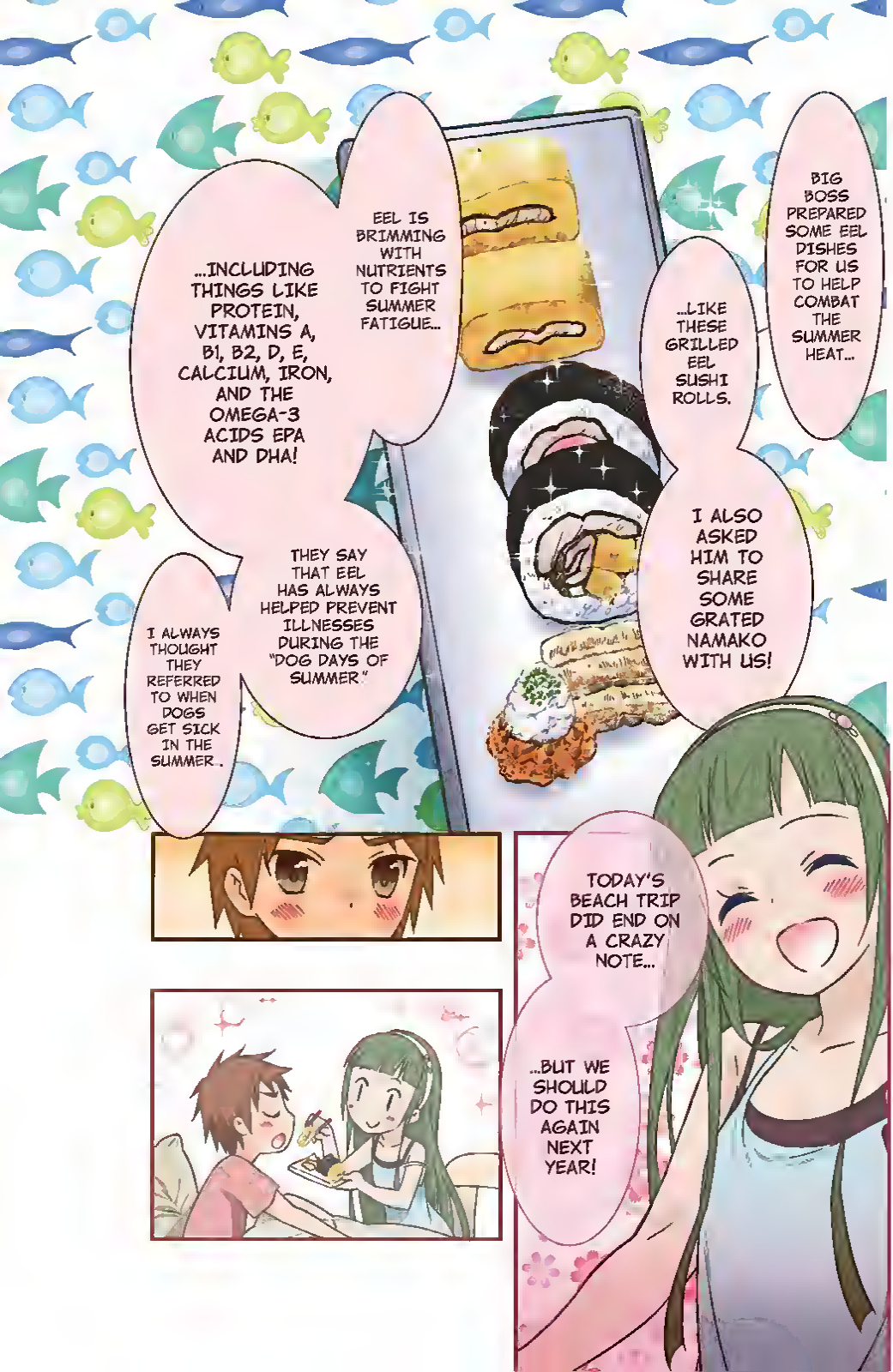

A DREAM...?
I ONLY KISSED MORINA IN MY DREAM...?
AND BIG BOSS IS THE ONE WHO--?
CROAK
MALLOW-SAN?!
WE'RE SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU LIKE THIS...
NO PROBLEM! BY THE WAY, OUR BEACH HUT STILL MADE OFF WITH MORE THAN YOU GUYS

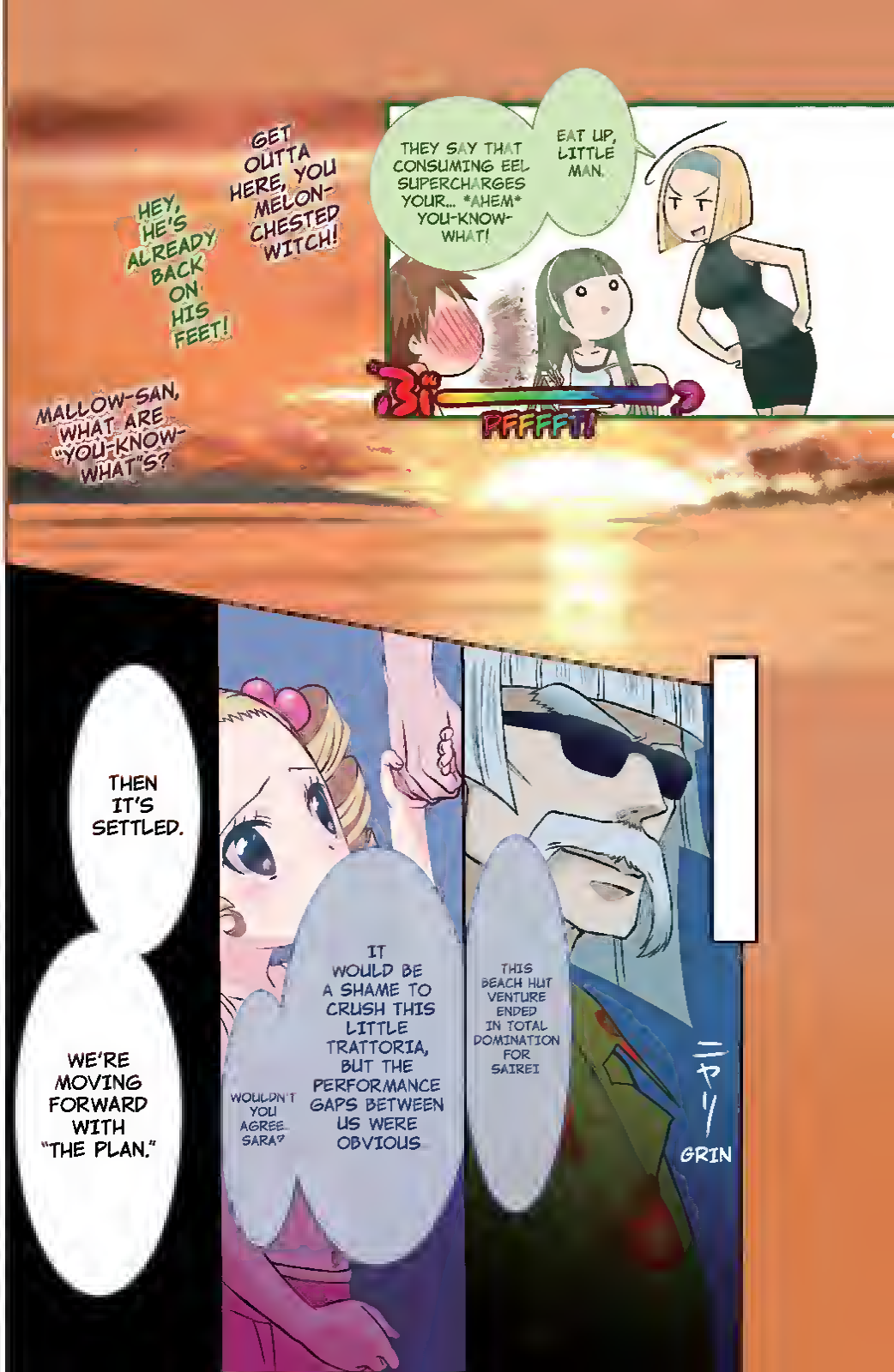



YOU'RE IN THE INFIRMARY, SO JUST TAKE IT EASY!
HEY, LITTLE MAN. HOW DO YOU FEEL?
DUUUUH


HEY, RURI-SAN! HE'S AWAKE!

THE INFIRMARY?! YOU JUST BLEW YOUR CHANCE AT A HUNKY-DORY PLAYTIME FANTASY WITH MORINA, YOU IDIOT! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOUR BEACH HUT IDEA IMPLODED, YOU GOT WASHED OUT BY THAT STORM, AND YOU EVEN GOT KISSED BY THAT OLD GEEZER! HAVING MORINA WORRY OVER YOU IS JUST RUBBING SALT INTO THE--
CLINK
MALLOW-SAN!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN EAT?


BIG BOSS PREPARED SOME EEL DISHES FOR US TO HELP COMBAT THE SUMMER HEAT...
...LIKE THESE GRILLED EEL SUSHI ROLLS.
I ALSO ASKED HIM TO SHARE SOME GRATED NAMAKO WITH US!
EEL IS BRIMMING WITH NUTRIENTS TO FIGHT SUMMER FATIGUE...
...INCLUDING THINGS LIKE PROTEIN, VITAMINS A, B1, B2, D, E, CALCIUM, IRON, AND THE OMEGA-3 ACIDS EPA AND DHA!
THEY SAY THAT EEL HAS ALWAYS HELPED PREVENT ILLNESSES DURING THE "DOG DAYS OF SUMMER."
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THEY REFERRED TO WHEN DOGS GET SICK IN THE SUMMER.
TODAY'S BEACH TRIP DID END ON A CRAZY NOTE...
...BUT WE SHOULD DO THIS AGAIN NEXT YEAR!


EAT UP, LITTLE MAN.
THEY SAY THAT CONSUMING EEL SUPERCHARGES YOUR... *AHEM* YOU-KNOW-WHAT!
RFFFFT!
GET OUTTA HERE, YOU MELON-CHESTED WITCH!
HEY, HE'S ALREADY BACK ON HIS FEET!
MALLOW-SAN, WHAT ARE "YOU-KNOW-WHAT"S?
THIS BEACH HUT VENTURE ENDED IN TOTAL DOMINATION FOR SAIREI
IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO CRUSH THIS LITTLE TRATTORIA, BUT THE PERFORMANCE GAPS BETWEEN US WERE OBVIOUS
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, SARA?
GRIN
THEN IT'S SETTLED.
WE'RE MOVING FORWARD WITH "THE PLAN."